



Waves, brought by Hurricane Sandy, crash on a house in the Caribbean Terrace neighborhood in eastern Kingston, Jamaica, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. Hurricane Sandy pounded Jamaica with heavy rain as it made landfall near the country's most populous city on a track that would carry it across the Caribbean island to Cuba, and possibly threaten Florida.

(AP Photo/Collin Reid)

## Hurricane Sandy slams Jamaica, sets sights on Cuba

**DAVID McFADDEN**  
**Associated Press**

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)**

— Hurricane Sandy's howling winds and pelting rains lashed precarious shantytowns, stranded travelers and downed power lines Wednesday as it roared across Jamaica on a course that would take it on to Cuba and then possibly threaten Florida and the Bahamas.

Sandy's death toll was at least two. An elderly man was killed in Jamaica when he was crushed by a boulder that rolled onto his clapboard house, police

reported. Earlier Wednesday, a woman in Haiti was swept away by a rushing river she was trying to cross. In some southern towns on Jamaica, a few crocodiles were caught in rushing floodwaters that carried them out of their homes in mangrove thickets, showing up in districts where electricity was knocked out, local residents reported.

One big croc took up temporary residence in a family's front yard in the city of Portmore.

By Wednesday evening the hurricane's eye had crossed Jamaica and emerged off

its northern coast near the town of Port Antonio, meteorologists said, but rain and winds continued to pound the Caribbean island, and hurricane conditions were predicted to last well into the night.

It was the first direct hit by the eye of a hurricane on Jamaica since Hurricane Gilbert 24 years ago, and fearful authorities closed the island's international airports and police ordered 48-hour curfews in major towns to keep people off the streets and deter looting. Cruise ships changed their itineraries to avoid the

storm, which made landfall five miles (8 kilometers) east of the capital, Kingston.

Flash floods and mudslides were a threat for this debt-shackled tropical island of roughly 2.7 million inhabitants, which has a crumbling infrastructure and a number of sprawling shantytowns built on steep embankments and along gullies that sluice runoff water to the sea.

In the hilly community of Kintyre, on the outskirts of Kingston, Sharon Gayle and a few of her neighbors expected to completely lose the town's bridge over the

Hope River, which washed away a section of the span just three weeks ago during a heavy downpour.

The shell of a concrete home that collapsed into the river and killed two people several years ago still lies toppled on the sandy banks.

"I'm really nervous. We're trying not to show it in front of the children though," the mother of three said, huddling under a sopping white towel as she stared at the rising river.

**Continued on next Page**



# Hurricane Sandy slams Jamaica, sets sights on Cuba

Continued from front

The 18th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season was expected to pass over eastern Cuba early Thursday, missing the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, where pretrial hearings were being held for a suspect in the deadly 2000 attack on the destroyer USS Cole off Yemen.

Cuban authorities issued a hurricane watch for several provinces. A hurricane watch was issued for the central and northwestern Bahamas, where the storm was predicted to pass Thursday and Friday morning.

Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said tropical storm conditions were possible along the southeastern Florida coast, the Upper Keys and Florida Bay by Friday morning.

A tropical storm watch was

in effect for the area, the center said.

In southwestern Haiti, a woman died in the town

protection office. There were reports of extensive damage to Port Salut on Haiti's far-southwestern



**A woman wades through flood water brought by Hurricane Sandy as she evacuates her home in the Caribbean Terrace neighborhood of eastern Kingston, Jamaica, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. Hurricane Sandy pounded Jamaica with heavy rain as it made landfall near the country's most populous city on a track that would carry it across the Caribbean island to Cuba, and possibly threaten Florida.**

(AP Photo/Collin Reid)

of Camp Perrin after she was swept away by a river she was trying to cross, said Marie Alta Jean-Baptiste, head of the country's civil

coast after a river burst its banks. Mayor Larock Pierre Clervert said a hotel was destroyed by flood waters. Across Jamaica, the poor

in slums and moneyed residents in gated communities hunkered down at home as powerful winds shrieked around buildings and sent sheets of rain sideways. Many homes were lit by candlelight and lanterns since tens of thousands of power utility customers were without electricity.

Stranded business travelers and a smattering of locals rode out the Category 1 hurricane in hotels clustered along a strip in Kingston's financial district. Some read prayer books or novels, while others watched movies or communicated with loved ones on computers.

Cris Hopkinson, a Toronto woman who was on a business trip, said she hoped to catch a flight off the island Friday once the stormy weather cleared.

"For now, I'm just hoping that the glass in the windows doesn't shatter from

the winds," Hopkinson said in the dining room of the Courtleigh Hotel.

About a mile away in the rough neighborhood of Grants Pen, where shops have been ransacked in the past during storms, a number of young men ignored the curfew, riding on bicycles or walking in small groups in the steady rain.

Cecile Graham, a mother of two teenagers, said she was worried about the possibility of burglaries or looting at the small markets and shops that line the main road.

"I hope that all the police are out and we won't have the looting that has taken place before," she said.

Police slowly drove through drenched communities in the coastal capital with their cruisers' lights flashing. A senior police superintendent was shot in troubled West Kingston, but the circumstances were murky. □

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# White House told of Libyan attack claim Sept. 11

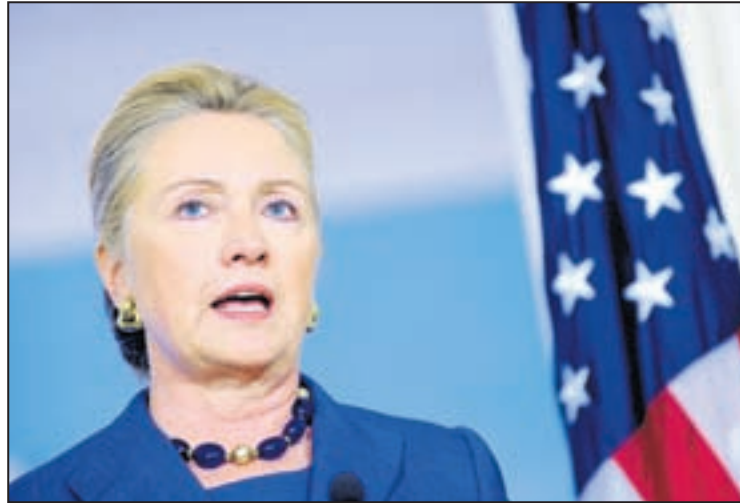
LARRY MARGASAK

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Two hours after the U.S. Consulate came under attack in Benghazi, Libya, the White House was told that a militant group was claiming responsibility for the violence that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. A State Department email sent to intelligence officials and the White House situation room said the Islamist group Ansar al-

Americans about the nature of the attack. But militant groups often surface after such attacks claiming responsibility and it's difficult to immediately verify such claims.

The Associated Press and other news organizations obtained the unclassified email and two related emails from government officials who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about them publicly.

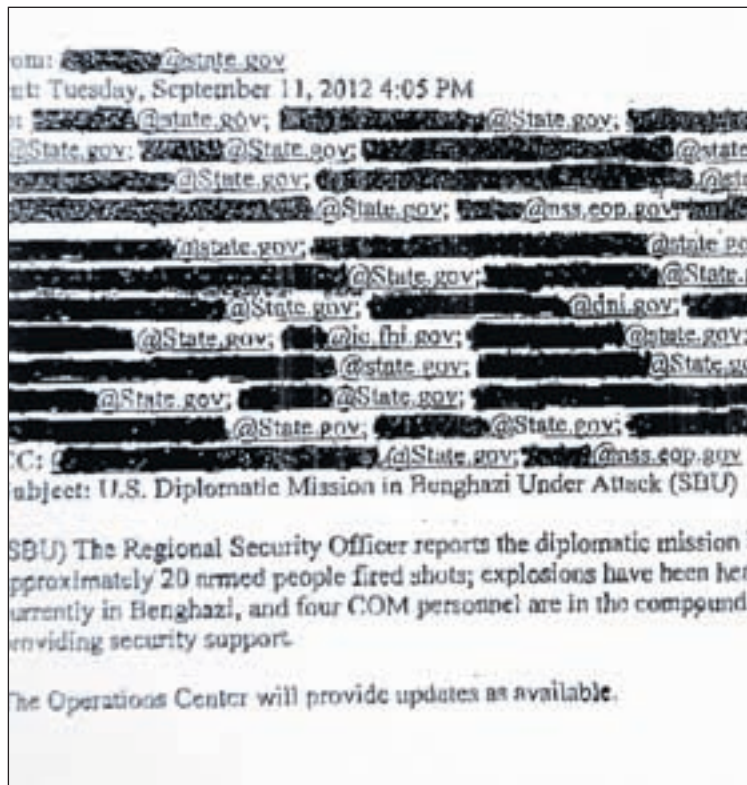


Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton answers a reporter's question on Libya during a joint news conference with Brazil's Foreign Minister Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, at the State Department in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

edly from the explanation the CIA director David Petraeus gave them by the end of that week. In that first briefing, just 12 hours after consulate was burned down, the intelligence committees received a report that it was a military style assault, but just days later, Petraeus stressed that militants had infiltrated a mob, a U.S. official said.

U.S. intelligence officials have said Petraeus outlined that extremists were believed to be in the crowd, and carried out the attack, and also stressed the picture was still evolving. □



This is a redacted copy of an email obtained by The Associated Press discusses the attack of the Benghazi, Libya mission. Two hours after the U.S. Consulate came under attack in Benghazi, Libya, the White House was told that a militant group was claiming responsibility for the violence that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

Sharia claimed responsibility on Facebook and Twitter, and also called for an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli. The document may fuel Republican efforts to show that the White House knew it was a terrorist attack, even as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations was saying — five days afterward — that it appeared to be a protest gone awry. The Obama administration's account of the Benghazi events has become a campaign issue, with presidential challenger Mitt Romney and Republican lawmakers accusing the White House of misleading

The House and Senate committees that oversee intelligence received a raft of documents from the Office of Director of National Intelligence on Monday, two congressional aides said. Congressional staffers combing through the documents have found a kaleidoscope of sometimes conflicting intelligence, backing up much of what intelligence officials explained over the past several weeks. But members of both committees are still complaining that the original briefing they were given just after the Tuesday, Sept. 11 attack differed mark-



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## Another rape remark has GOP on defensive



Indiana Republican Senate candidate Richard Mourdock arrives for a news in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, to explain the comment he made during last night Senate debate. Mourdock said that when a woman becomes pregnant during a rape, "that's something God intended." Mourdock has been locked in a close contest with Democratic Rep. Joe Donnelly.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

### Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Another Republican Senate candidate's awkward remark about rape and pregnancy has forced Mitt Romney to confront the emotional issue of abortion, just as the White House challenger hoped to focus on jobs and the economy to keep up his momentum in the few days remaining until the election.

Richard Mourdock's comment — that if rape leads to pregnancy it's "something God intended" — put Republican candidates from Romney on down on the defensive and sent them scrambling to protect their recent gains among female voters. It was not what most Republicans wanted to be discussing days before an extremely close election largely hinging on concerns about the weak U.S. economic recovery. President Barack Obama's campaign jumped on Mourdock's remark, calling it "demeaning to women." The Democratic president, who supports abortion rights, retains an advantage among women, but recent polls have suggested Romney has cut into that edge. In debate appearances and speeches, the Republican challenger has hammered home the message that America's women have suffered ec-

onomically over the last four years. Almost immediately after Mourdock's comment, Republicans distanced themselves from the Indiana Senate candidate — though by varying degrees. The Romney campaign said Wednesday that the presidential nominee disagreed with what Mourdock said but stood by his endorsement of the Senate candidate. There were no plans to drop a Romney testimonial ad for Mourdock that began airing in Indiana on Monday. Romney opposes abortion but, unlike Mourdock, supports exceptions in cases of rape or incest. Mourdock's comment in a Tuesday night debate came in answer to a question on when abortion should or should not be allowed. The candidate explained after the debate that he did not believe God intended the rape but that God is the only one who can create life.

Said Romney spokeswoman Andrea Saul: "We disagree on the policy regarding exceptions for rape and incest but still support him." Several Republican senators and candidates — some of them facing tight races themselves — forcefully rejected Mourdock's comment. One senator who had planned to campaign with Mourdock in Indiana canceled her ap-

pearance.

Romney and several Republicans have been moderating their positions in the campaign's closing days, making their final pitch to the independents, undecideds and female voters whose votes could tip both the presidential election and majority control of the Senate. With recent national polls showing Obama's edge with female voters shrinking to single digits, Democrats eagerly made Mourdock's comment an issue for Romney and Republican Senate candidates. The Obama campaign said the president found Mourdock's comments "outrageous and demeaning to women," and it contended they were "a reminder that a Republican Congress working with a Republican President Mitt Romney would feel that women should not be able to make choices about their own health care." Said spokeswoman Jen Psaki of Romney: "It is perplexing that he wouldn't demand to have that ad taken down."

In another close Senate race, Romney had called on Missouri Republican Senate candidate Todd Akin to drop out after Akin remarked in August that women's bodies have ways of avoiding pregnancy in cases of what he called "legitimate rape." □

## Teen arrested in Colorado girl's abduction, murder

### P. SOLOMON BANDA

#### Associated Press

**WESTMINSTER, Colo. (AP)**

— A teenager who lived just a mile from a 10-year-old Colorado girl who was abducted and killed earlier this month has been arrested in her death, along with a May attack on a runner, authorities said Wednesday.

Police in the Denver suburb of Westminster said they took 17-year-old Austin Reed Sigg into custody on Tuesday night after receiving a phone call, apparently from his mother, that led them to Sigg. He was formally arrested Wednesday.

Reached by phone, Sigg's mother told The Associated Press he turned himself in.

"I made the phone call, and he turned himself in. That's all I have to say," said Mindy Sigg, before she broke down in tears and hung up.

Police announced the ar-

rest as agents searched the home of Sigg, an Arapahoe Community College student described by former classmates as a smart "goth kid" who was interested in mortuary science. Authorities declined to elaborate on the arrest and have released few details about the case. Court documents have been sealed, but a police custody report said Sigg was cooperative when he was arrested and waived his rights.

Jessica Ridgeway disappeared Oct. 5 while walking to school. Her remains were found five days later in a field at a park, and police said her body was "not intact."

The arrest case came a day after police said Jessica's abduction was connected to the May 28 attempted kidnapping of a 22-year-old runner at another area park, the Ketner Lake Open Space. □

## Texas executes convicted killer for brutal '91 slaying

### MICHAEL GRACZYK

#### Associated Press

**HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)**

— Convicted killer Bobby Lee Hines was executed Wednesday for strangling and repeatedly stabbing a suburban Dallas woman at her apartment 21 years ago.

Hines, 40, was 19 and on probation for burglary when he stabbed 26-year-old Michelle Wendy Haupt 18 times and strangled her with a cord. Haupt had moved from the Pittsburgh area to Carrollton to work at a computer company in Dallas, and Hines was staying next door with a maintenance man for her apartment complex.

Asked by a warden to make a final statement, Hines repeatedly asked for forgiveness.

"I know that I took somebody special from y'all," he said as Haupt's father stood a few feet away, watching through a window. "I know it wasn't right, it was wrong.

I wish I could give it back, but I know I can't.

"I wish there was something I could do."

He said he loved his family, believed life in prison would be a worse punishment, and then declared that he was "going home."

As the lethal dose of pentobarbital was administered, he said he could feel it and was stopped in mid-sentence. He snored once, then slipped into unconsciousness. Twelve minutes later, at 6:28 p.m., he was pronounced dead.

"It's like a backache, it never goes away," Harold Haupt said afterward about the pain of losing his daughter. "It's always there.

"On the upside of this, Bobby Hines paid the ultimate price, a life for a life, and that's the good news. The bad news is it took 21 years, a lot of taxpayer money and all he did was go to sleep. He didn't suffer like my daughter did." □





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## Megachurch shooting suspect Palmer previously committed



Fulton County Police public information officer Kay Lester holds up the picture of Floyd Palmer, the suspect in a fatal shooting at World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga. Police in Georgia said Palmer, 51, walked into a chapel at World Changers Church International just before a 10 a.m. service and opened fire, killing church volunteer Greg McDowell, 39, while he was leading a prayer.

(AP Photo/Atlanta Journal-Constitution, John Spink)

**ALEX DOMINGUEZ  
NORMAN GOMLAK  
Associated Press**

COLLEGE PARK, Georgia (AP) — A man suspected in Wednesday's fatal shooting at a Georgia megachurch was once committed to a mental health facility in Maryland after facing various criminal charges including attempted murder, according to court records.

Police in Georgia said Floyd Palmer, 51, walked into a chapel at World Changers Church International just before a 10 a.m. service and opened fire, killing church volunteer Greg McDowell, 39, while he was leading a prayer.

"He walked in calmly, opened fire, and left as calmly," Fulton County Police Cpl. Kay Lester said.

Palmer was a former facilities maintenance employee at the church who resigned in August for "personal reasons," Lester said. He previously lived in Maryland.

The church's well-known founder and leader, the Rev. Creflo Dollar, was not there at the time.

Palmer was taken into custody without incident a few hours later at an mall in Atlanta's upscale Buckhead neighborhood, Lester said. Police spotted his car in the parking lot. They didn't recover a weapon.

He was being charged with homicide and possession of firearms in commission of a homicide, with additional charges pending. Court records show a man named Floyd Lester Palmer, born on the same day in 1960, was charged in Baltimore in 2001 with attempted murder, assault and handgun charges. He was committed to a psychiatric hospital in 2004 after pleading not criminally responsible to lesser charges. The records show he was released the next year subject to conditions that were to remain in effect for five years. The court filings include motions by the defense for a dangerousness evaluation, which was later withdrawn. Baltimore police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said the department did not have arrest records in the case, which is not unusual in cases where someone has been committed. Palmer's attorney in the case, □

## California: 5 family members shot, 3 dead

**GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press**

**DOWNEY, California (AP) —** Five members of the same family were shot and three of them died Wednesday in connected attacks at a business and residence in a Los Angeles suburb, police said.

The shootings occurred at a business called United States Fire Protection Services and at a nearby home, where family members of the owner live, said police Lt. Dean Milligan.

A woman was found dead at the home, and a man and a woman were killed at the business, he said. Two other shooting victims, including a 13-year-old boy, were in critical but stable condition at hospitals.

It was unclear how all the victims were related. A small boy, age 4 or 5, who also was related to the victims, was found unharmed after authorities contacted a school.

Milligan said police were looking for a gunman who apparently escaped in a black Camaro that belonged to a victim or a victim's family member.

The shooter was unknown to the surviving victims, who "don't believe him to be a former employee, a friend of the family, or a former friend of the family," Milligan said.

A motive remained unknown, but police have ruled out a random attack because the shootings occurred at separate locations targeting the same family, Milligan said.

"We do believe there is a specific reason this family was targeted and we want to know what that is," he said.

No witnesses have come forward and police were

reviewing surveillance camera footage in hopes it would give them a glimpse of the shooter.

Police received two emergency services calls just after 11 a.m. — one from the home made by the 13-year-old survivor and one from the business — about the attacks.

Police believe the suspect engaged in a brief conversation at both the business and the residence with the victims.

Milligan said the 13-year-old boy was the only one that police have been able to

entry at the home or businesses, and the home was not ransacked, he added. United States Fire Protection Services is in an industrial area of Downey across from a bottling plant. The family owned business sells professional firefighting gear and equipment such as hoses, valves and extinguishers, according to its website.

In the first hours after the shooting, as news media gathered outside police tape, a man who said his wife worked at the business showed up at the crime



Police investigators talk to people across the street from a family-owned business, United States Fire Protection Services, in Downey, Calif., Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. Five members of the same family were shot and three of them died Wednesday in connected attacks at a business and residence in a Los Angeles suburb, police said.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

talk to extensively, and they were waiting to get further information from him.

The boy told police he and the adult woman were transported three blocks from the business to the home in the same car that the suspect later used to flee.

Detectives were waiting to talk to him again to find out whether the victims drove themselves to the home or were driven there by the suspect, Milligan said.

There was no sign of forced

scene and frantically said he needed to know if she was safe.

An officer pointed him toward a command post and he ran in that direction, pushing cameras aside.

Blanca Parker, who works next door, said the owners were very friendly.

"They were hard working," Parker said. "They worked seven days a week, 24-7." Parker added the owners made security a top priority, even though the area was considered safe. □





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## Kennedy cousin denied parole in killing

DAVID HENNESSEY

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**SUFFIELD, Conn.** — A three-member parole board has denied Kennedy cousin Michael Skakel his request for early release from prison in the 1975 murder of Martha Moxley, citing the impact it would have on her family. The decision came Wednesday after two hours

at age 15." Michael was 15 years old when Martha Moxley was found murdered.

"Michael did not do this crime," John Moxley said. "There is not going to be peace and justice until this case is fully investigated." He said the Skakel family has "basically been dragged through the mud for sev-

innocence to the board for more than an hour, Dorothy Moxley said, "Martha, my baby, will never have a life" as she held back tears. She not speak when John Moxley addressed the media after the hearing. John Moxley said ongoing legal proceedings have worn on the family in the decades since Martha was killed.

decision.

Skakel said he has been sober for 30 years after a vision on Oct. 25, 1982.

"There's been so much traumatic stuff in my life," he said.

Erika Tindill, chair of the parole board, replied, "I agree."

Skakel says he'd rather be sober in jail than drunk and on the street.

The room was silent for the first hour except for the voices of Tindill and Skakel, who answered her questions and made his pleas in soft tones. Skakel sat next to his lawyers, Hope Seeley and Hubert Santos.

Dorothy Moxley, dressed in a pink jacket and gold earrings, was stoic as Skakel spoke. Her family and members of the Skakel family, once neighbors in the exclusive Belle Haven section of Greenwich, sat in divided groups in blue plastic chairs. Outside it was raining on the towering walls and barbed wire.

"I care about the truth," they listened to Skakel tell the board.

The Skakel family has blamed Skakel's conviction on his defense attorney during the trial, Mickey Sherman. Tindill asked Skakel how long he had been represented by Sherman.

"Unfortunately, too long," Skakel responded.

Parole board member Pamela Richards commended Skakel for staying out of trouble in prison.

Skakel told the board he sees his son about twice a year.

He repeatedly mentioned his faith in God, with phrases such as "I am resigned to do God's will, whatever that is."

During his decade in prison, he has turned to art and meditation, he said. □

## Goldman's Gupta gets 2 years prison for insider trading

PETER LATTMAN

© 2012 New York Times

**NEW YORK** — Rajat K. Gupta, the former Goldman Sachs and Procter & Gamble director, was sentenced to two years in prison Wednesday for leaking boardroom secrets to former hedge fund manager Raj Rajaratnam.

Gupta, 63, who ran the consulting firm McKinsey & Co. and served as a top adviser to the foundations of Bill Gates and Bill Clinton, is the most prominent figure to face prison in the government's sweeping crackdown on insider trading. He was also ordered to pay a \$5 million fine. In a statement, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, Preet Bharara, said of Gupta, "His conduct has forever tarnished a once-sterling reputation that took years to cultivate."

Bharara added, "We hope that others who might consider breaking the securities laws will take heed from this sad occasion and choose not to follow in Mr. Gupta's footsteps."

The Justice Department's campaign has reached onto the trading floors of some of Wall Street's largest hedge funds and inside the most revered boardrooms of corporate America. Over a three-year stretch, more than 70 traders, bankers, lawyers and corporate executives have been convicted of insider trading crimes.

Judge Jed S. Rakoff of U.S. District Court in Manhattan handed down a more lenient prison sentence than the eight to 10 years stipulated by nonbinding federal sentencing guidelines. □



Michael Skakel reacts as parole is denied during a hearing at McDougall-Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield, Conn., Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. Parole officials denied Skakel's first bid for parole since he was convicted a decade ago of killing his neighbor in 1975. Skakel is serving 20 years to life for fatally beating Martha Moxley with a golf club in Greenwich when they were 15-year-old neighbors.

(AP Photo/Jessica Hill, Pool)

of testimony and an hour of deliberation.

"I would prefer to see him spend the rest of his life in prison," Martha's brother, said after the family left the prison grounds. Fifteen minutes after the Moxleys appeared before the media, Michael Skakel's brother, John Skakel, held a news conference at the same spot.

John Skakel, who caught his breath while holding a large black-and-white photograph of Michael when he was 15, said, "Meet my little brother Michael Skakel

eral decades" and that the Moxley family deserves peace. "An innocent man has spent 10 years in prison for something he didn't do," John Skakel said.

Facing a parole board for the first time Wednesday, Skakel said he was a victim of the media.

The family of Martha Moxley, the victim of the Oct. 30, 1975, murder that sent Skakel to prison a decade ago, sat in the audience as Skakel told the parole board: "I'm at your mercy."

After Skakel proclaimed his

"I'm glad he's not out of jail," John Moxley said.

Michael Skakel, dressed in tan prison clothes, read from prepared notes to the Board of Pardons and Paroles and occasionally appeared to speak off the cuff. "I did not commit this crime," said Skakel, 52.

Skakel said he knows his best chance of getting parole is to admit guilt, but he continued to maintain his innocence.

The board entered into executive session after the two-hour hearing and returned an hour later with its



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# Study says Illinois debt taking toll on services

MARY WILLIAMS WALSH  
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For years, Illinois has racked up billions in public debt to plug budget holes, pay overdue bills and put billions into its mismanaged pension funds. And for the people who live there, this has resulted in decrepit commuter trains and buses, thousands of unsound bridges, 200 hazardous dams and one of the most inequitable public school systems in America. Those are the conclusions of a new examination of Illinois finances by the State Budget Crisis Task Force, which was released Wednesday. The group, led by the former Federal Reserve chairman, Paul A. Volcker, and the former New York lieutenant governor, Richard Ravitch, recommended a thorough overhaul of Illinois' budgeting practices, to make it harder to kite money from year to year and warned that tax increases might be in store.

"It would be better for Illinois to start on a long-run path to a sustainable budget than to live beyond its means for several more years and then face a sudden, painful reckoning," the task force said. Illinois has the lowest credit rating of the 50 states and has built up America's second-biggest public debt per capita, \$9,624, including state and local borrowing. Only New York state is bigger, at \$13,840. But Illinois has not been able to use much of the borrowed money to keep its roads, bridges and schools in good working order because

of years of shoddy fiscal practices and economic weakness, the report said. "Illinois has been doing back flips on a high wire, without a net," the task

ining the finances of the states, out of a concern that huge fiscal problems at the state and local level are being overlooked as election-year debate in



Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and former New York Lt. Gov. Richard Ravitch, the leaders of the State Budget Crisis Task Force, during a news conference at the Newseum in Washington. An examination of Illinois' finances by the task force, released Oct. 24, recommends an overhaul of the state's budgeting practices and warns that tax increases may be in store for the state.

(Mary F. Calvert/The New York Times)

force said in the report, which was issued in Chicago. The group has been exam-

Washington focuses on the federal debt and deficit. Nearly two-thirds of the Illinois state government's

\$58 billion in direct debt consists of bonds the government issued to cover retirement payments for workers, including a \$10 billion pension obligation bond that broke all previous records in 2003. Yet for all that borrowing, Illinois' public pension system is still in tatters. In fact, its total pension shortfall is conservatively estimated at \$85 billion. It continues to grow despite recent changes that raised the retirement age for new workers and limited the pensions that future workers can earn. The task force said that further reductions in pension benefits appear inevitable because the state has promised more than it can deliver. While many states have heavy debt burdens and

unbalanced pension funds, the task force warned that Illinois' problems had been building for decades and were advanced. The state was already "insolvent," it said, even before the financial crisis hit in 2008, but the insolvency was hard to detect because "budget gimmicks became a standard practice." During the 2001 recession the state also had begun issuing a type of debt that its constitution permits only during emergencies – but when the recession and the emergency were over, it continued the borrowing practice. The task force observed that Gov. Pat Quinn had inherited the insolvency from the previous governor, Rod R. Blagojevich, who is serving a prison sentence for corruption in office. □



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## Syria:

# Rebels concerned over al-Qaida's influence in crisis

**HAMZA HENDAWI**

**Associated Press**

**ALEPPO, Syria (AP)** — The presence of foreign Islamic militants battling Syria's regime is raising concerns over the possible injection of al-Qaida's influence into the country's civil war.

Syria's rebels share some of those misgivings. But they also see in the foreign extremists a welcome boost: experienced, disciplined fighters whose battlefield valor against the better-armed troops of President Bashar Assad is legendary. Nothing typifies the dilemma more than Jabhat al-Nusra, a shadowy group with an al-Qaida-style ideology whose fighters come from Libya,



Syrian security officers gather in front the damaged building of the aviation intelligence department, which was attacked by one of two explosions in Damascus, Syria. Foreign Islamic militants fighting Syria's regime pose a dilemma for the country's rebels, and nothing typifies the problem more than Jabhat al-Nusra, a shadowy group of veterans of jihad in Iraq, Libya and elsewhere. Some rebels worry the group is too radical, using al-Qaida-style tactics of suicide bombings. (AP Photo/Bassem Tellawi)

Tunisia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the Balkans and elsewhere. Many are veterans of previous wars who came to Syria for what they consider a new "jihad" against Assad.

The group has become notorious for numerous suicide bombings during the 19-month-old conflict targeting regime and military facilities. Syria's rebels have tried to disassociate themselves from the bombings for fear their uprising will be tainted with the al-Qaida brand.

But several hundred fighters from Jabhat al-Nusra — Arabic for "the

Support Front" — have also been a valued addition to rebel ranks in the grueling, three-month battle for control of Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

Their reputation in battle circulates among Aleppo's rebels like an urban legend. Soon after opposition forces launched their assault on the city in July, government troops almost drove them out of the key district of Salaheddin — until 40 Jabhat al-Nusra fighters rushed to the front and fended them off, according to a story told by many rebels.

The group's fighters have played a similar role along the multitude of front lines that divide this city of 3 million people, where regime forces and rebels have been at a standstill, fighting street to street but unable to score a decisive victory. Many rebels talk of the al-Nusra fighters' prowess as snipers.

"They rush to the rescue of rebel lines that come under pressure and hold them," one rebel said. "They know what they are doing and are very disciplined. They are like the special forces of Aleppo."

But he added: "The only thing is that they are too radical." He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals by both Jabhat al-Nusra and the Assad regime. In a statement posted on militant websites Wednesday, Jabhat al-Nusra rejected a proposed cease-fire during the four-day Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, which starts Friday. □

## Gazans fire rockets at Israel, bringing airstrikes

**JOSEF FEDERMAN**

**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip fired dozens of rockets and mortar shells into southern Israel on Wednesday in the heaviest bombardment on the area in months, drawing ominous Israeli threats of retaliation and dangers of escalation. The violence came a day after a landmark visit to Gaza by the emir of Qatar. Israeli officials suggested the visit, the first by a head of state to the

Hamas-ruled territory, emboldened the militant group.

The rocket fire began shortly after the emir left Gaza late Tuesday and continued through the night. Israeli officials said more than 80 projectiles were fired, and Hamas claimed responsibility for many of the attacks. Israel responded with a series of airstrikes on rocket launchers, killing two Palestinian militants, according to Gaza medical officials. Two other Palestinians were killed Tuesday.

Three Thai laborers working on an Israeli farm were wounded, two seriously, when a rocket hit a chicken coop. Other rockets badly damaged five houses and broke car windows. Schools in the area were closed. Many people spent the day indoors, while others stayed in close proximity to the makeshift cement shelters found in the streets of southern Israeli towns. In one farming community, shrapnel covered trees and a children's playhouse in a backyard. □

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# Greece: We got an extension; EU: No you didn't

**The Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** —

Greece's Finance Minister said the country has been granted a long-sought extension to meet the terms of its bailout program — but the claim was swiftly shot down as "speculation" by the European Central Bank and lead lender Germany. Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras said the deal was struck as part of weeks-long negotiations with its international creditors over a €13.5 billion (\$17.56 billion) package of new austerity measures for the next two years, required for continued emergency loan payments.

"What have we achieved today? We have achieved the extension," the minister told parliament.

"If we had not been granted that extension, today

we not only have needed to take measures worth €13.5 billion euros, but €18.5 billion (\$24 billion)."

He added: "We have not gone bankrupt because we still have funds remain-

ing from the previous installment."

One of the conditions of Greece's €240 billion bailout program is that it reform the economy so the country can eventually return to



**Greek Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras arrives at the finance ministry for a meeting with Greece's international debt inspectors in Athens. Stournaras said the country has been granted a long-sought extension to meet the terms of its bailout program — but the claim was swiftly shot down as "speculation" by the European Central Bank and lead lender Germany.**

(AP Photo/Kostas Tsironis)

the bond markets to raise money.

Greece has asked for a two-year extension on its adjustment program, until the end of 2016, to ease the impact of further austerity measures and labor market reforms.

In Berlin, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble bluntly dismissed Stournaras' statement as "speculation"

"I can't confirm this," he told reporters.

"As far as the Federal Finance Ministry and the German government are concerned, there are no new developments."

Schaeuble said creditors were still awaiting a report on Greece's progress by the so-called troika of debt

inspectors, from the European Union, the ECB and International Monetary Fund, before any decisions would be made.

ECB President Mario Draghi appeared to question the Greek statements.

"The review is not finished yet," he said.

"I understand progress has been made but that some parts need to be defined, and I don't know anything more than that.

I cannot comment on these rumors."

The IMF also weighed in.

"There has been progress in recent days, but some outstanding issues remain to be agreed upon," the IMF said in a statement.

"Discussions continue," the agency added. □

## Russia:

## Opposition issues warning to Kremlin

**VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**

**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** —

Russian opposition leaders urged President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday to stop clamping down on dissent and warned they would ask Western governments to freeze assets of Russian officials involved in a spiraling crackdown on the opposition. Alexei Navalny and other opposition activists who were elected to the opposition's Coordinating Council in a weekend online ballot accused the Kremlin of unleashing a campaign of "direct and forceful pressure against its opponents in rude violation of Russian and international law." They pointed at what they said was the abduction of opposition activist Leonid Razvozhayev from neighboring Ukraine as an example of the repression of dissenters. The opposition leaders warned that government officials and law-enforcement officers will face "imminent punishment for their crimes against Russian citizens."

They said the opposition will hold a rally in Moscow in support of Razvozhayev and other jailed opposition members this

weekend. "The Coordinating Council will demand the arrest of all foreign assets of the masterminds and perpetrators of the abduction, torture and illegal criminal repression against the opposition," the opposition leaders said in a statement.

Russia's top investigative agency formally charged Razvozhayev on Tuesday with orchestrating riots. The agency said he had turned himself in, but Razvozhayev and his supporters said he was kidnapped from Ukraine where he was seeking asylum, smuggled back into Russia and tortured into confessing that he organized riots.

Members of a Russian prisoners' rights watchdog, who spoke Wednesday after meeting with Razvozhayev in jail, said unidentified abductors forced him to make "confessions" by threatening to kill him and his family. Valery Borshchev and other members of the Public Observation Commission said the masked men who abducted Razvozhayev kept him in handcuffs and leg chains in a basement for three days, denying him food, water, sleep and a toilet until he signed the confessions. □



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## Prison, \$7 billion fine for French rogue trader



Former trader Jerome Kerviel leaves his lawyer's office in Paris, Wednesday Oct. 24, 2012. The Paris appeals court on Wednesday ordered former Societe Generale trader Jerome Kerviel to spend three years in prison and pay back a staggering 4.9 billion euro (about \$7 billion) in damages for one of the biggest trading frauds in history.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

**ELAINE GANLEY**  
**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — A former junior trader for France's second-largest bank who was ordered Wednesday to pay back a staggering €4.9

billion (about \$7 billion) in damages to his ex-employer is painting himself as the victim of a financial system that runs on greed.

Only the Bill Gates or the Warren Buffetts of the world could come up with the breathtaking sum an appeals court demanded Jerome Kerviel reimburse to Societe Generale as punishment for committing one of the biggest trade frauds in history. Kerviel says he will fight back with a new appeal to France's highest court. The court upheld in full the initial 2010 guilty verdict and sentence, which includes a three-year prison term, against the 35-year-old rogue trader.

He sees himself not as a fraudster but as a victim of a system that turned a blind eye to his colossal positions in late 2007 and early 2008 as long as they made money for the bank.

Hours after the verdict, Kerviel announced his plan to appeal, which he has until Monday to file.

"I will continue to fight," he told RTL radio. "I think the

judgment is protecting Societe Generale."

Kerviel called on people in banking, notably Societe Generale employees, who have information to come forward and serve as witnesses. "I'm looking for the truth to be told."

Kerviel, who never profited personally from his unauthorized trades, said he had thought the court might acquit him. "I absolutely didn't expect this ruling," he said in his first comments after slipping out the side door of the courtroom. "What happened today is a call for me to put a bullet in my head," he said. He added, when asked, that he does "absolutely not" envision suicide. The lawyer for Societe Generale, Jean Veil, called the verdict "a great satisfaction," particularly the court's demand the former trader reimburse the €4.9 billion (\$7 billion at the time) that it cost the bank to unwind his astronomical positions.

Still, Veil acknowledged that full repayment would, in all likelihood, be out of

the question.

Banned for life from working in the financial industry, Kerviel was making €2,300 (\$3,150 at the time) as a computer consultant after leaving the bank. Societe Generale had paid him less than €100,000 (\$155,700) with bonuses, a modest sum for what he earned for the bank in 2007 when he amassed €1.4 billion in profits for the bank.

"Societe Generale will look at it realistically," Veil told reporters. However, he indicated the bank could take over royalty earnings from a book Kerviel published this year about the scandal as well as any income he might earn from movie deals.

"It would have been indecent for Mr. Kerviel to be able to preserve revenues coming from the exploitation of his fraud," Veil said. The appeals court upheld the October 2010 conviction of Kerviel for forgery, breach of trust and unauthorized computer use for covering up bets worth nearly €50 billion — more

than the market value of the entire bank. It sentenced him to a five-year prison term — with two years suspended — ordered he pay €4.9 billion in damages.

A new appeal to the Court of Cassation would suspend carrying out the sentence. Kerviel's lawyer, David Koubbi, called the verdict "absolutely lamentable." The argument turns broadly on who is the victim in the case.

The Societe Generale lawyer pointedly referred to the bank as "the victim." But for many others, the real victim was the trader, who maintains he was a cog in a financial system that runs on greed and profits.

A colleague from Societe Generale who testified on Kerviel's behalf said the court didn't take into account others at the bank who surely knew about Kerviel's risky bets.

A junior futures trader such as Kerviel "could in no case do what he did without being seen" by his superiors, Philippe Hoube said after the verdict. □

## NYT defends incoming chief amid BBC scandal

**RAPHAEL SATTER**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The New York Times stood by its incoming chief Wednesday, even as questions about a BBC child sex abuse scandal followed him from one of Britain's most respected news organizations to one of America's.

But as new CEO Mark Thompson was getting support from his new bosses, the Times ombudsman questioned his fitness for the job. And in Britain, a lawmaker said he had more questions for Thompson. As Thompson prepares to take over as president of The New York Times next month, he has been put on the defensive about his final days as head of the BBC and the broadcaster's decision to kill what would have been a bombshell



Cameras are seen above a sign at the BBC Television Centre, in London Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. The BBC is facing questions over sexual abuse allegations against former television presenter Jimmy Savile.

(AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

investigative story alleging the late Jimmy Savile, one of its biggest stars, had sexually abused up to 200 children.

In a letter to a lawmaker and an interview with the Times, Thompson said he never knew of the Savile story before it was spiked

and had never met the network's popular star. New York Times Co. spokesman Bob Christie said Wednesday that the BBC scandal had "obviously been a topic that we've discussed" internally, but the Times was satisfied with Thompson's answers. □

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# Panama abandons land-sale plan in duty-free zone

JUAN ZAMORANO

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) —

Panama's president said Wednesday that he is willing to cancel plans to sell state-owned land in a duty-free zone on the Panama Canal following a week of sometimes violent protests in which a 10-year-old boy and two adults died.

President Ricardo Martinelli said on his Twitter account: "If the people of Colon don't want the land in the duty-free zone to be sold, the sale will be canceled." Late Tuesday, Martinelli's economy minister offered to use proceeds from the proposed sales for development projects in the city of Colon after a woman and a man were killed by stray bullets. The boy was killed during a confrontation between police and rioters Friday. Despite the government's statements, hundreds of residents carrying signs that read "Colon is not for sale" burned tires on the streets Wednesday. In the capital, Panama City, construction workers and students protesting in support of the people of Colon threw rocks at heavily

armed police who responded with tear gas.

Protesters object to legislation signed into law Friday that would let export-import businesses buy land they are now leasing in the duty-free zone, an area that city residents consider their pat-

Caribbean coast province of Colon.

"We've said clearly that we do not want a law that seeks to sell the land," said protester Felipe Cabezas, a member of the Colonense Broad Movement. "As long as the law is not revoked,

people. Colon province is home to several Atlantic ports that service ships using the Panama Canal and supply the country's only oil refinery. It's economically the second most important province after the province of Panama, where the capital is.

But the bustling duty-free area and ports have had little effect on improving conditions for the province's 245,000 people. The new law helped revive resentment against the national government over it taking the lease money directly to the capital.

"Nothing ever comes into the province," said Roberto Chiari, a 48-year-old bricklayer in Colon. "We have lived in the duty-free zone all our lives and no government had ever come up with the crazy idea to sell the land."

The government gets about \$33 million in rent a year that go directly to the state's budget. Martinelli proposes selling the land and allocating 35 percent directly to Colon's development. It is estimated the government would get \$400 million from land sales the next two years. □



**A woman walks past riot police officers during a protest in downtown Colon, Panama, Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012. Demonstrators protested over a new law allowing the sale of state-owned land in the duty-free zone next to the Panama Canal. Protesters said the land is already being rented and it makes no sense to sell it. They said the government should instead raise the rent and invest the money in Colon, a poor and violent city.**

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

rimony.

Critics of the law say the lease charges should be increased and the money invested in the impoverished

we won't dialogue."

The duty-free zone houses about 2,000 companies that lease land next to Colon, a city of about 50,000

## Bolivia:

## British ex-soldier arrested in tourist town

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — A man who identified himself as a former British special forces soldier has been arrested in an Amazon jungle tourist town for illegal possession of a sub-machine gun, a pistol and an unspecified quantity of cocaine, authorities said Wednesday.

Mark David Hassell was arrested Monday night in his room at a boarding house in Rurrenabaque after neighbors complained that he had threatened them, said Navy Capt. Cimar Vides, the regional military chief.

Hassell was taken to the regional capital, Trinidad, on Wednesday where he was to appear before a judge on illegal arms and cocaine possession charges, Vides said.

Hassell had the insignia of various British military units

tattooed on his body, the official said. He added that Hassell had overstayed a tourist visa obtained last year.

"He has been an elite soldier. He was decorated and took part in the Bosnia war," Vides said.

The British Embassy said it was providing consular assistance to Hassell but declined further comment.

The police officer who arrested Hassell said the suspect gave his age as 43 and reported he had been in the British special forces and had also fought in Afghanistan.

Hassell had an Argentine-made 9-mm MK sub-machine gun and a Brazilian-made .38-caliber Tauro handgun along with 100 rounds of ammunition in a backpack, and the room smelled of cocaine, officer Agapito Torrez told The As-

sociated Press by phone.

Hassell, who identified himself as a tourist, also had a German shepherd that townspeople said had threatened them, the officer said.

He said Hassell does not speak Spanish.

Torrez said locals notified police in part because they said they heard Hassell say he would "make history" in Rurrenabaque.

Bolivia is the world's No. 3 cocaine producer. But the region where Hassell was arrested is not a coca-growing region although it is not far from the Yungas coca-growing region and is on the air traffic path of flights that ferry partially refined coca paste eastward from Peru.

Rurrenabaque borders the Madidi national park and is popular with foreign tourists. □



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# Incumbents increasingly dominate in Latin America

IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— After four election wins, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is on track to completing at least 20 years in power, and supporters such as street bookseller Cristina Tovar say they're glad to have him in charge.

Tovar has signed up to receive new public housing, and the government has installed brightly painted kiosks for her and other vendors. During the campaign, her city was covered in banners and posters emblazoned with the president's image.

In a region where military dictators ruled by force for decades, millions of Latin Americans such as Tovar are backing a new crop of leaders extending their rule and dominating power through the ballot box.

Already the Western Hemisphere's longest-serving president, Chavez has helped lead the charge of incumbents who have secured constitutional changes and stayed on for multiple terms, overturning provisions that had barred or limited re-election. Chavez won the right to indefinite re-election through a 2009 referendum and earlier this month was elected to another six-year term.

"He deserves to win as many times as the people elect him," Tovar said. "I adore my president."

Ecuador's leader, Rafael Correa, is widely expected to seek a third term in February, which could extend his rule to 10 years, while presidents in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia have also won re-election since 2006.

Some critics are uneasy about the health of the democracies in which a single person can remain in office for a generation. Even Chavez's friend and ally, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, publicly advised the Venezuelan leader last week that a fourth term ought to be enough.

Silva, who was hugely popular and served two terms before stepping down in

2010, said in an interview with the Argentine newspaper La Nacion that "Chavez should begin to prepare his succession." Silva said that in Brazil he forbade his political allies from seeking a constitutional amendment to give him a third term.

"If I had done it, I would have wanted a fourth term, and then a fifth," Silva said. "For democracy, alternation in power is a conquest

bent presidents in Latin America seeking re-election have won, said Javier Corrales, a political science professor at Amherst College in Massachusetts.

Only two incumbents have fallen short: Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua in 1990 and Hipolito Mejia in the Dominican Republic in 2004, both amid economic troubles. In Ortega's case, he returned to power in 2007 and won

presidency is, relative to the other actors out there," said John Carey, a professor of government at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. "And the prospects for being able to self-perpetuate by abusing the authorities of the office are really big, in particular manipulating the courts, manipulating the media and manipulating budgets."

After Chavez beat rival

two years later.

"It's really depressing," said Gabriela Montero, a renowned Venezuelan pianist who lives in the Boston area. "I think having so much power and having so much money ... Chavez has been in a position of incredible advantage."

Montero composed a piece last year called "Ex-Patria," saying it grew from feelings of losing her homeland. Reflecting on the result of this month's election, Montero pointed to the words of 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar, the namesake of Chavez's Bolivarian Revolution movement, who once warned that "nothing is so dangerous as to permit a citizen to remain in power a long time."

For his part, Chavez has also been invoking Bolivar while pledging a renewed push for oil-exporting Venezuela to become a more equitable, socialist society. "Socialism equals democracy, democracy equals socialism — the power of the people," Chavez said in a televised Cabinet meeting last week, saying he aims to create a "21st century socialist democracy."

The trend toward multi-term presidents in the past decade has been dominated by left-wing leaders but has also included conservative Alvaro Uribe in Colombia. He stepped down in 2010 after a court blocked a referendum on whether he could seek a third term.

Peru became one of the first to loosen those limits in recent years under President Alberto Fujimori, who shut down Congress in 1992.

His allies then drafted a constitution that allowed him to be re-elected twice — before he fled into exile amid a corruption scandal. Peru went on to bar re-election to two consecutive terms.

Since 1995, seven Latin American presidents have followed suit and won the right to re-election through constitutional changes, said Ignazio De Ferrari, a doctoral student in political science at the London School of Economics. □



**Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez, left, waves to photographers as Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, center, talks to Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez during the official photo at the Mercosur Summit in Montevideo, Uruguay. Already the Western Hemisphere's longest-serving president, Chavez has helped lead the charge of incumbents who have secured constitutional changes and stayed on for multiple terms, overturning provisions that had barred or limited re-election. Presidents in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia have won re-election since 2006.**

(AP Photo/Marcelo Hernandez)

of humanity, and that is why it should be maintained." Increasingly, though, popular incumbents have appeared virtually unstoppable, despite controversy about their efforts to stay in power.

As countries have benefited from a decade of economic growth, many presidents have won the allegiance of the poor and the working class, which for some has translated into a kind of fanatic devotion often seen in the past century, when populist leaders such as Brazil's Getulio Vargas and Argentina's Gen. Juan Peron rode popular support to long years in presidential palaces.

Since 1985, 15 of 17 incum-

re-election last year, extending his total potential time in office to 15 years. Nicaragua's Supreme Court in 2009 effectively removed term limits.

"It seems that in Latin America all you really need to know to predict an election is, well, is the incumbent running for office?" Corrales said.

Experts say that record speaks volumes about both the advantages incumbents traditionally enjoy and also the strong powers that Latin American presidents wield in often-fragile democracies.

"The fact is that these presidencies tend to be really powerful offices, much more powerful than the U.S.

Henrique Capriles this month by 11 percentage points, his narrowest margin ever, opposition leaders accepted defeat but also complained of Chavez's heavy spending on public housing and other social programs before the vote. Some say that with Chavez entrenched for another six-year term, Venezuela runs the risk of further concentrating powers in the president, especially with his allies controlling the legislative branch.

Voters in 2007 had narrowly defeated Chavez-backed constitutional changes that included abolishing presidential term limits, only to approve indefinite re-election in another referendum





## Amateur Boxing Night at Aruba Juniors a knockout event!

**ORANJESTAD**-Aruba Boxing Association has once again given Aruba a tremendous boxing event. There was a lot of action in the 9 boxing matches that took place the night. Also worth mentioning Arubox was honored to have Minister Visser present for the event.

The first bout of the evening was an exhibition between Idmarg Puentes and Arthur La Moria both from Stay Boxing Fit (SBF) under Coach Stacey Hassel. These two athletes warmed up the crowd for the action that was to come. At the end of their bout, both competitors had their hands raised. In Aiba Olympic Boxing in exhibition bouts there are no losers only winners.

The first official bout of the evening was at 56 kg between Rusean Hoek in blue of STB and Randy De Cuba of Ernesto Boxing Gym (EBG) in red. In the first round Rusean kept his hands up as any good boxer should and he dominated the center of the ring. Randy kept active on the outside and used much lateral movement to keep out of the range of his opponent. In the second round of the bout Randy kept darting in and out of range of Rusean trying to use combinations to score points on his opponent, all the while keeping up moving sideways and staying away from Rusean. In the later part of round 2 and into round 3 Rusean started to slip Randy's attacks and started to land more counter punches. Rusean kept scoring of his defense and in the end it Rusean Hoek won his debut against Randy de Cuba.

The second bout of the evening was 75 kg between Manuel Suarez in Blue of Dojo Illidge (III) versus Aron Legario in red of JBG. For both boxers it was their debut boxing bout. The bout

started with Aron jabbing at his opponent while keeping a strong defense with his hands up. Manuel displayed a more defensive style of boxing moving his body and slowly hunting for his opponent trying to attack of the counter. However this bout wasn't meant to go the distance as after an exchange between the boxers the ref in this bout Chulin Caster gave Manuel a standing 8 count and determined that he could no longer continue. Bout

sure to keep his distance in round 1, throwing punches in bunches and backing off. In round 2 Brian began throwing more punches to the body while chasing down his opponent. Randel played more defensive for the most part of round 2, coming alive at the end of the round attacking of his blocks and countering Brian while maintaining his distance. In the 3rd round Randel made sure to keep using his jab, utilizing his reach advantage over his

early jabs, finding some success. Guillermo bided his time and when he saw an opening attacked his opponent coming him and sending him into the ropes. At the end of round 1 the bout was still very close. In round 2 Guillermo started to come alive unleashing combination after combination on his opponent. Jean-Marc not to be outdone tried going toe to toe while weaving and slipping then attacking; however at the end of 2 rounds the

was Guillermo Kelkboom from JBG that would be crowned the victor.

The fifth bout of the evening was between Marco Dupersoy in the red of JBG versus Robin Lansiquot in blue of SBF. This was Robin Lansiquot debut boxing bout and Marco's 2nd boxing bout. Mr. Dupersoy is also the President of Arubox and is still participating in boxing events; this should make for an interesting bout. With Robin being the taller boxer with a longer reach he started very active with his jabs, trying to keep Marco out. Robin kept using his jab to bother his opponent, his jab both was an offensive and a defensive weapon against Marco. Marco went on the attack slipping his opponents jabs. Marco kept low, sometimes weaving too low under his opponent. However when Marco got on the inside of this opponent he unleashed "punches in bunches". In round 2 both opponents starting clinching each other which started to slow the pace of the bout. In one instance of the clinch Marco was successful unleashing a combination attacking his opponent high and low of the counter, while picking apart Robin defense. Robin not to be undone stayed active catching Marco with a right hook to the jaw in the second round, reminding Marco to always keep his hands up during a match. Going into the 3rd round both boxers started to look tired as their conditioning was beginning to get tested. Robin started the 3rd aggressive, swinging for head and body shots. But Marco kept his hands up this time and was able to defend against the aggression from the younger boxer.



stopped by referee stoppage in round 1.

The third bout of the evening was at 75 kg between Brian Hazel in red of JBG and Randel Simon in blue of SBF. This was Brian's debut bout, this was not Randel first time in the ring. In round 1 Brian started as the aggressor wanting to set the pace of the ring. Brian attacked with some serious looking power punches, however he did so while not keeping his hands up which left him open for some counter attacks from the taller Simon. Simon made

opponent. It was a valiant showing by Brian Hazel in his debut however in the end it was Randel Simon in the blue corner whose hand was raised the victor.

The fourth bout of the evening was Jean-Marc Howell of Alliance of True fighters (ATF) in blue under Coach Giovanni Heyliger and Guillermo Kelkboom in red of JBG. Both boxers showed each other respect as non-wanted to commit to an early attack on the other. Jean-Marc kept his defense strong and tried countering his opponent's

red corner seemed to be gaining and clear advantage. Jean-Marc decided at the onset of the final round that this round would be his, as the bell rang he went straight into attack mode trying to overwhelm his opponent. Jean-Marc got some success in the beginning for the round, but then Guillermo started his counter attack once again sending Mr. Howell into the ropes. Guillermo kept up his attack until the end of the round. Both fighters kept trading shots, though many didn't score. At the end it

**Continued on Page 15**



## Medical expert visiting Aruba with latest study on effects of wind turbines on health

In an effort to present the latest information available regarding Wind Turbines and their affect on the health of those living in proximity to these Industrial Parks, the Affected Residents Urirama group has decided to bring a panel of experts to Aruba to present the latest study on this subject.

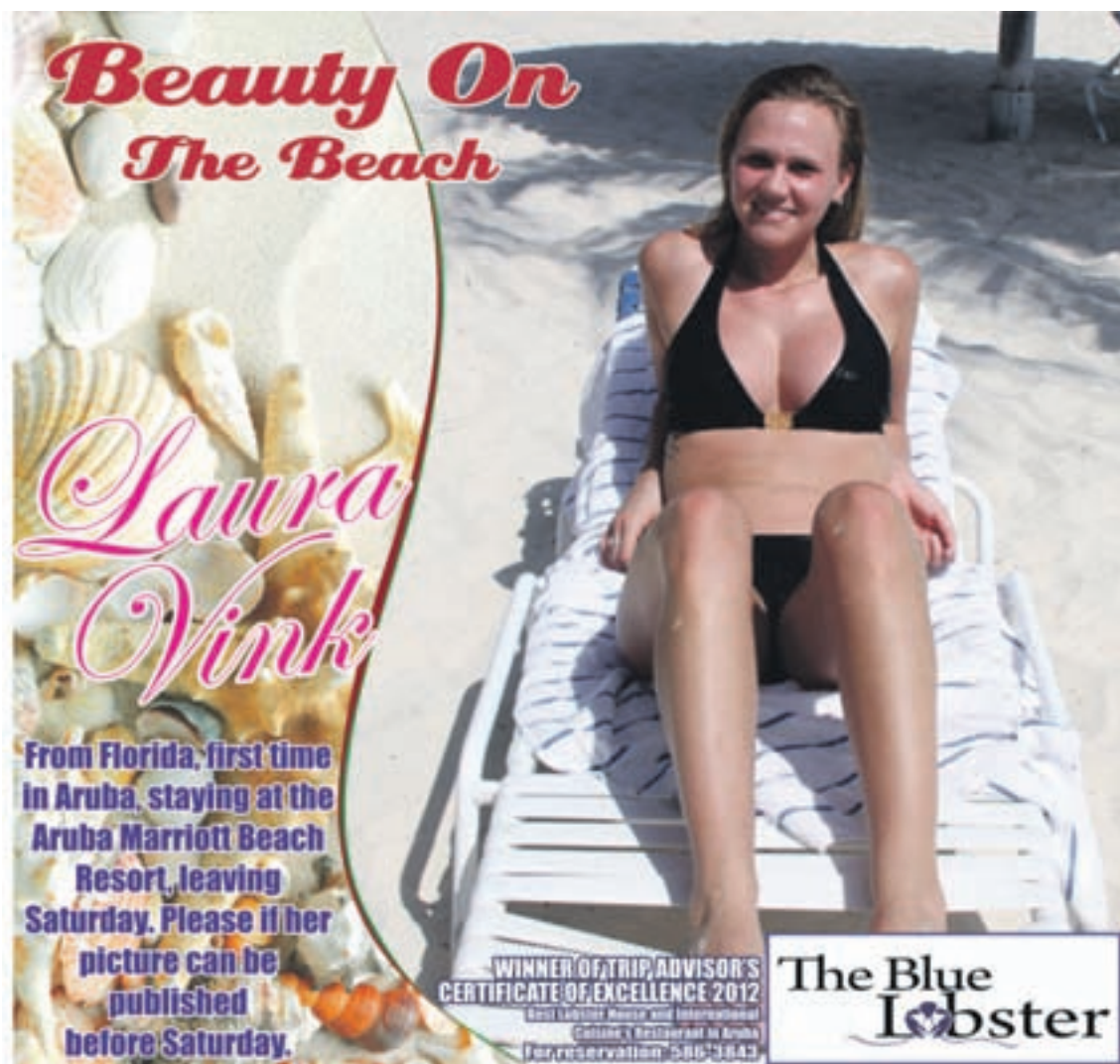
A medical expert, who

forms part of the panel, has performed a recent controlled study on adverse health effects in the USA, will be presenting their findings. Also included in the panel is a couple who had to evacuate their dream home because of the ill-effects of Wind-Turbines near their home, hear their story. We would like to make use of this opportunity to ex-

press our appreciation to our Prime Minister, who has accepted to meet with our experts during their brief stay and to listen to the information they will present. On Monday, October 29th in the morning, we expect to make a presentation to the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet. An afternoon presentation will also be held, from



(Handout Photo)



(AP Photo/Ferdinand Ostrop)

2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Conference Center, to which we have invited Members of Parliament, NGO's, related Government Departments, Local Medical and Health Experts, Clergy and Members of the Press.

On October 29th from 7-9 pm in the evening a special event will be held at "Centro di Bario Noord" for the residents of the area of Noord. There will be an opportunity for Questions & Answers after the presentations by the various speakers.

We are convinced that the information and testimony presented will be of interest to all who have questions or concerns regarding the health of those in proximity to an Industrial Wind-Turbine Park.

We again state that we are absolutely "for" a green energy policy that is sustainable and considers the well-being of all the stakeholders of the community. Mr. Henk Hutting of Vader Piet Beheer N.V. and Windparken Aruba Real Estate N.V. has offered on several occasions in the media -including various newspa-

pers- to pay 1 Million US Dollars in cash to anyone who can hand him proof that wind-turbine noise have health effects on people. Our lawyer has delivered a letter to Mr. Hutting this morning, in which we accept his offer and requested him to deposit the sum of one million at a notary of his choice, by Friday October 26, 2012.

We also informed him that 100% of the funds he pays, will be donated to charitable causes on the island. We are hereby encouraging the community to come and listen, be informed, make use of the opportunity to ask questions and take an active interest in this subject, which is of benefit not only to those potentially affected but to all of us, most especially those members of the medical profession and those in a leadership position who have a responsibility to guard the safety and well-being of others, as well as those that can be directly affected by the consequences of this planned site for an Industrial Wind-Turbine Park at Urirama. □



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## Boxing

Continued from page 13

At the end of 3 rounds it was the president who got the victory. Both boxers congratulated each other for a hard fought bout.

The sixth bout of the evening was at 75 kg between Giovanni Heyliger in blue of ATF and Clifford Erasmus in red of SBF. This was Giovanni's second appearance in the ring and this was Clifford's debut. In the beginning of the bout both boxers respected each other's space. Both boxers displayed similar styles; they jabbed and countered each other's attacks almost as like taking turns testing each other's defenses. There were no fireworks in the first round as both boxers kept to a conservative style mostly attacking of their defense. In round 2 both boxers changed strategies as Heyliger started attacking more off his defense and countered far more effectively, clearly scoring off the exchanges. Clifford started slipping more, upping his attack clearly getting to his opponent a few times. At the end of 2 rounds it was pretty close. At this point it could of gone either way. The 3rd round started much like the second round finished with both boxers sticking to what they were doing in the second. Heyliger did the same thing was doing in the 2nd but with more conviction, and it paid off as he was landing more scoring blows

then he was in the previous rounds. Clifford lifted his aggression as well going toe-to-toe with his opponent. He kept his hands up, attacking of his defense, stepping back and countering and slipping and countering. This was a close fight but in the end there has to be one winner. The judges chose Giovanni Heyliger as the victor of this bout. In the end it was Giovanni's more effective scoring that won him the bout.



The seventh bout of the evening was in super heavy (91+) between Patrick Geerman in blue of ATF and Rajoni Arrindell in red of JBG. Rajoni displayed good fundamentals keeping his hands up and keeping his eyes on his opponent. In the first round Rajoni kept on a steady attack with some scoring counter punches to the stomach of Patrick. Rajoni made sure to keep up the pressure in the first round aggressively chasing his opponent for most of the first round. Patrick used his jab a lot throughout the bout. Patrick attacked his

opponent when he could, using his jab and moving in-and-out on his opponent. Round 2 had less action then round 1 but the pace was still high. Rajoni improved on his defense from round 1 and started using his overhand right more effectively against his opponent in round 2. Patrick to his credit starting jabbing a lot more trying to keep the more aggressive Rajoni away from him, in round 2 Patrick wasn't as effective as he was in round 1. In the

final round the "preverbal" gloves came off as these two super heavy weights when at each other scoring on each other in this last round. Both didn't want to leave any doubt in the judges' minds and decided to give all they got in this last round. Rajoni was able to hurt Patrick enough for the referee to step in and give Mr. Geerman a standing 8 count. After the count Rajoni was back on the attack. Rajoni finished off the bout with a steady attack and a strong defense. At the end of the bout Mr. Geerman was declared the

winner. Many in the crowd were shocked by the results of the bout, including the red corner. However they judges didn't see it that way and declared Patrick the winner. The final bout of the evening was between Ruell Wester in blue of Leo's Boxing Gym and Kevin Lee who is representing Aruba's selection. The first round between these 2 boxers was touch and go, with each boxer testing the others defense. Kevin Lee was clearly

Ruell started countering more effective against his faster opponent and started to score some shots off his defense on Lee. Lee adapted to the countering from Wester and started to improve his defense. Round 2 started to see some more uppercuts from both boxers as each realized that his opponent would be a walk in the park and their respective arsenals would have to be use more efficiently if they wanted to win the bout.

After 2 it was close, however in round 3 is where the difference in the bout happened. Ruell still depending on his defense and counters to score points started to slow a bit. Kevin took this as an opportunity and increased his attack on his rival. Ruell kept scoring between in the exchanges however it was not enough as Kevin's attacks starting scoring at a faster pace. Kevin started attacking more pivoting around his opponent and countering of his opponents counter. All in all it was a great fight and in the end it was Kevin Lee whose hand was raised the victor.

That concludes Arubox' boxing event of the 20th of October, we would like to thank the referees and officials for their volunteer help, without which out events could not happen. Thanks you to all our volunteers that through their support make each event a bigger success then the last. Arubox has more events planned before the end of 2012. For the latest news from Arubox please follow us on Facebook. □



# Hyatt Regency Curaçao, Hyatt Regency Aruba's finest battle it out on the field



Hyatt Regency Curaçao's team, comprised of staff members from numerous departments, won the first ever inter-island Hyatt football tournament. Resort teams also competed in volleyball and softball tournaments.

- Staff members from both resorts compete in friendly athletic competition  
Oranjestad, Aruba – October 24, 2012 – Hyatt Regen-

cy Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina recently hosted the first ever inter-island Hyatt sporting competition, where staff mem-

bers participated in a series of friendly matches against members of Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort & Casino's staff.

"Besides bringing out the competitive spirit between the players, the competition reinforced the camaraderie and synergy that exists between these two sister properties," said Flor van der Vaart, general manager for Hyatt Regency Curaçao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina.

"We intend to hold this successful event annually. The teams are already strategizing next year's competition, which will be held in Aruba, where we will be defending our current championship title."

"In addition to further strengthening the relation-



Staff members from Hyatt Regency Aruba, runners up, look forward to challenging the title in next year's tournament.

ship with our colleagues in Curacao, the athletic events promoted our dedication towards the health of our associates," said Fred Hoffmann, General

Manager of Hyatt Regency Aruba. "We look forward to hosting the rematch next year and continuing Hyatt's commitment to associate wellness." □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby

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Opening hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm.  
**Sunday Closed.**







Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts after her tennis match against Angelique Kerber of Germany on the second day of the WTA championship in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012.

Associated Press

## Serena beats Li Na at WTA

NESHA STARCEVIC

AP Sports Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) —

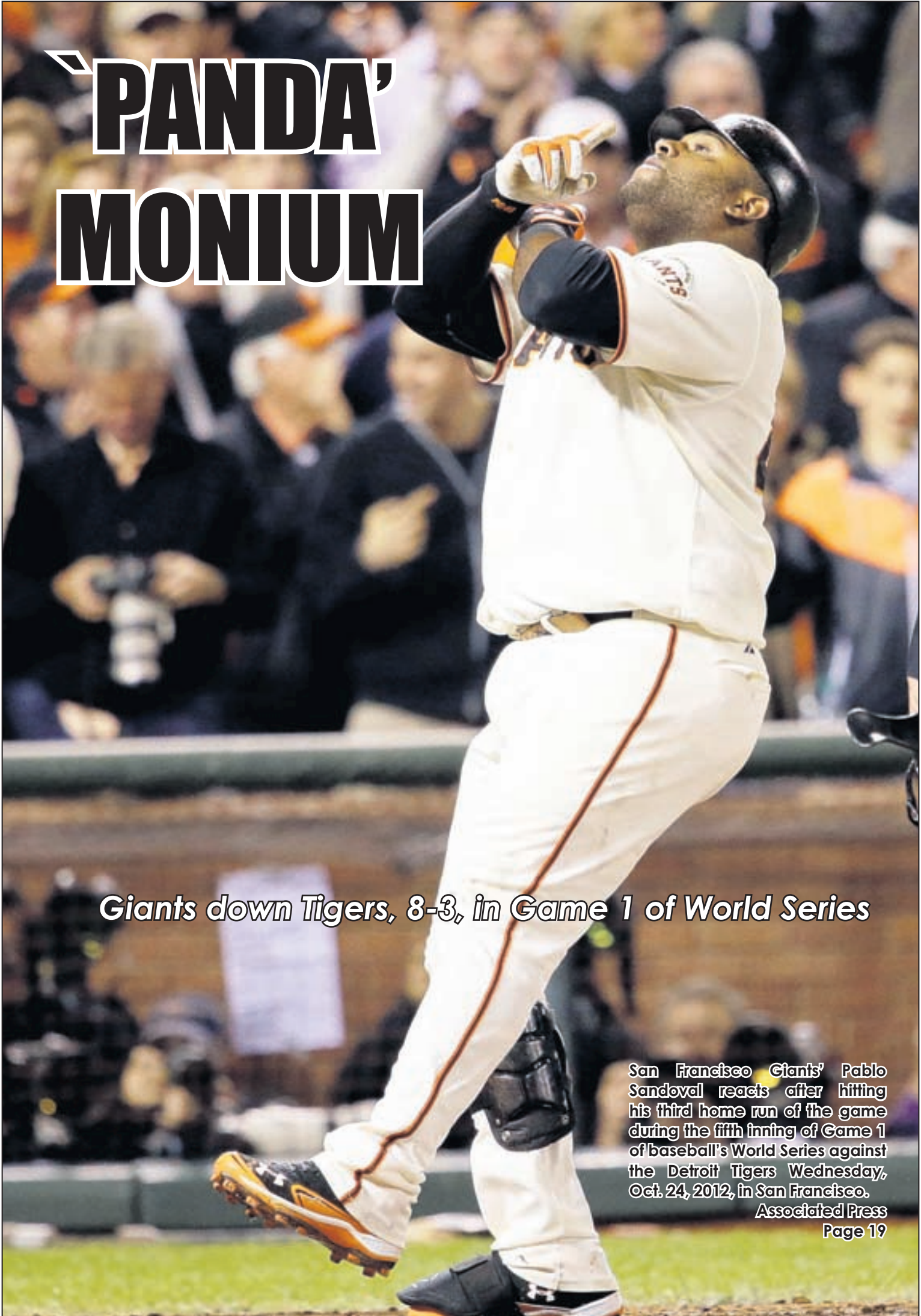
Serena Williams proved Wednesday at the WTA Championships that even when her serve is malfunctioning, she can still beat a top player. Williams beat 2011 French Open champion Li Na of China 7-6 (1), 6-3 for her second win in round-robin matches to seal a semifinal spot at the tournament for the top eight players in the world.

In another Red Group encounter, top-ranked Victoria Azarenka saved two match points before rallying past Angelique Kleber of Germany 6-7 (11), 7-6 (2), 6-4 in her first match at the event.

Because that match went to three sets, Williams advanced to the last four.

In the White Group, second-ranked Maria Sharapova rallied to beat No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska 5-7, 7-5, 7-5.

Continued on Page 18



## Giants down Tigers, 8-3, in Game 1 of World Series

San Francisco Giants' Pablo Sandoval reacts after hitting his third home run of the game during the fifth inning of Game 1 of baseball's World Series against the Detroit Tigers Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

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## Harrington wins PGA Grand Slam on 3rd try

The Associated Press  
SOUTHAMPTON, Bermuda (AP) - Pádraig Harrington is a winner for the first time in two years, even if the PGA Grand Slam of Golf was only an exhibition. Four days after Harrington agreed to fill in for British Open champion Ernie Els, he ran off three straight birdies early on the back nine and closed with a 4-under 67 Wednesday for a one-shot win over U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson at Port Royal. Harrington, a three-time major champion, lost in playoffs at the PGA Grand Slam in 2007 and 2008. He wound up winning on his third try as an alternate in the 36-hole event for the

season's major champions. His last official win was the Johor Open on the Asian Tour in late 2010.

"I think we haven't had a win in a long time and I've got to tell you, they don't come around anywhere near as often as you believe they come around," said Harrington, who finished on 9-under 133 and earned \$600,000. "And when you win, you make sure you enjoy it.

And it was unfinished business for me, having lost in two playoffs. It was nice to come back and win it now. Yeah, it feels good. I haven't won in a while, so you know, it's nice. Winning is a habit and it's nice to do it." □

### WTA

Continued from Page 17

Williams had six double-faults and won only 51 percent of points on her first serve. But Li also struggled on serve - there were eight breaks in the first set and three more in the second.

"My serve just didn't go in. Every time I got my first serve in, I was surprised," Williams said. "But knowing I was able to still, for me, zero serve compared to how I normally serve - I think it's something good I can take out of the match."

She has won 28 of her past 29 matches and captured Wimbledon, U.S. Open and Olympic titles this year. The highest ranking she can achieve at the end of the year is No. 2 because of injuries and missed tournaments.

At one point, Williams got so frustrated at dropping serve that she uncharacteristically smashed her racket.

"No, I don't break rackets in matches. Although I didn't hit it hard," she said. "Maybe I don't know my own strength."

The first set was full of missed opportunities. The eighth-ranked Li took a 4-1 lead before Williams won the next four games. Serving for the set, the Ameri-

can again dropped serve. Li was unable to hold, though, and Williams had another chance to serve out the set - only to lose it at love.

Williams took control of the match in the second set by saving a breakpoint - in a

## Federer beats Bellucci in 3 sets at Swiss indoors



Switzerland's Roger Federer serves to Brazil's Thomaz Bellucci during their round of sixteen match at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland, on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012.

Associated Press

**BASEL, Switzerland (AP)**

— Roger Federer edged Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-3, 6-7 (6), 7-5 Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of his hometown Swiss Indoors tournament.

The top-ranked Federer saved four consecutive set points in the second-set tiebreaker before the 34th-ranked

Bellucci tied the second-round match.

It was not until match point that Federer, who held serve throughout, had the decisive break-point chance in the decider.

Federer will face either Benoît Paire of France or Lukasz Kubot of Poland in the final eight Friday.

Paire beat fifth-seeded An-

dreas Seppi of Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a first-round match.

Also advancing to the quarterfinals was third-seeded Richard Gasquet of France who beat Federer's boyhood friend Marco Chiudinelli, 6-1, 6-4.

Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria had 17 aces in defeating France's Julien Benneteau 7-6 (5), 6-7 (1), 7-6 (3).

In other first-round action, second-seeded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina eased past Alejandro Falla of Colombia 6-4, 6-1; Marinko Matosevic of Australia upset seventh-seeded Florian Mayer of Germany 6-2, 6-3; and France's Paul-Henri Mathieu beat Henri Laaksonen of Switzerland 6-2, 7-5. □



Na Li of China returns a shot to Serena Williams of the US during their tennis match on the second day of the WTA championship in Istanbul, Turkey, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012.

Associated Press

game that lasted nine minutes - to hold and lead 4-1. The American wasted two match points to break Li,

but closed it out on her own serve when the Chinese player sent a forehand long. Both Azarenka and Kleber smashed rackets in the second, highly entertaining match that lasted 3 hours, 6 minutes and tied the re-

cord for most games (36) at the event. The first-set tiebreaker also tied a record for most points.

Sharapova and Radwanska also equaled the record in a match that lasted three hours and 12 minutes and finished after 2 a.m.. Kleber is making her debut in the event after winning two titles and climbing to No. 5 this year after finishing

that went to nine deuces and lasted 13 1/2 minutes.

Azarenka then saved two match points before capturing the second tiebreaker. The Belarusian closed it out on Kerber's serve, hitting a forehand winner on her first match point.

"She provoked a lot of mistakes from me, but on the match points I just thought I had to go for it," said Azarenka, who needs one more round-robin win to secure the No. 1 ranking for the year. "She will not miss, so I didn't have to wait for her mistake."

"I had to go for it. I was so determined to make it happen. I wanted to change the momentum. I wanted to take the destiny into my hands. You know, if I would have missed those shots it will be up to me, not up to my opponent."

Kerber said Azarenka just played the big points better.

"I was 2-6 down in the tie-break and I won it, so maybe it was the same thing. I had the match points in the second set but she played unbelievable and I could do nothing," Kerber said.

Earlier, defending champion Petra Kvitová withdrew from the tournament because of a viral illness and was replaced by Samantha Stosur. □

2011 at No. 32.

She was down a break in the second set, but led 5-4 after prevailing in a game



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# Sandoval's 3 HRs lead Giants to 8-3 romp in opener



San Francisco Giants' Pablo Sandoval hits a solo home run against the Detroit Tigers in the first inning during Game 1 of baseball's World Series on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, in San Francisco. **Associated Press**

By **BEN WALKER**  
AP Baseball Writer

**The Associated Press SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** -- With three mighty swings, Pablo Sandoval put the San Francisco Giants ahead in this World Series and put himself in a class with Mr. October.

Sandoval hit three home runs and joined Reggie Jackson, Babe Ruth and Albert Pujols as the only sluggers to do it in the Series, and the Giants jolted Justin Verlander the Detroit Tigers 8-3 on Wednesday night in Game 1.

A rollicking AT&T Park crowd - a sea of black and orange outfits - roared as Sandoval connected in his first three at-bats. Popular in the Bay Area as the Kung

Fu Panda for his roly-poly shape, he went 4 for 4 and drove in four runs. A Giant panda for sure.

Verlander, the reigning Cy Young winner so dominant in this postseason, looked uncomfortable from the get-go and constantly pawed at the mound.

The final score raised a nagging question for manager Jim Leyland and his favored Tigers: Did too much rest after a playoff sweep of the Yankees mean too much rust?

Tagged by Sandoval for a solo shot in the first inning, Verlander could only mouth 'Wow!' after the Giants star launched a two-run drive in the third. Sandoval reprised his power show from this year's All-

Star game, when his bases-loaded triple highlighted a five-run first inning against Verlander.

And if there was any doubt that Verlander was shaky, the best sign came in the fourth. That's when pitcher Barry Zito, a career .099 hitter, sliced an RBI single with two outs off the current AL MVP for a 6-0 lead.

The festive crowd stood and applauded when it was announced that Verlander was being pulled for a pinch hitter in the fifth. Sandoval gave them another reason to get up moments later when he hit a solo homer off reliever Al Alburquerque in the fifth, answering the cheers by waving his batting helmet in a curtain call.

Pujols homered three times last year, Jackson accomplished the feat in 1977 and Ruth did it in 1926 and again in 1928.

For good measure, Sandoval lined a single his last time up.

From start to finish, it was basically a perfect game by the Giants. Coming off a Game 7 win over St. Lou-



San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Barry Zito throws during the first inning of Game 1 of baseball's World Series against the Detroit Tigers Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012, in San Francisco. **Associated Press**

is on Monday night, they looked totally fresh.

Zito shut out the Tigers until Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera hit an RBI single in the sixth, and Tim Lincecum came out of the bullpen to prevent further damage.

NL championship series MVP Marco Scutaro hit RBI singles after doubles by Angel Pagan. NL batting champion Buster Posey contributed two hits and left fielder Gregor Blanco made diving catches to rob Cabrera and Prince Fielder.

Game 2 is Thursday night, with Doug Fister starting for the Tigers against Madison Bumgarner.

The Tigers seemed out of sync in their first game following a five-game layoff.

That was an issue in 2006, too, when Verlander and his teammates had nearly a week off before getting wiped out by the Cardinals. ALCS MVP Delmon Young failed to run after a tapper in front of the plate that the Giants turned into a double play. The Giants, meanwhile, kept getting good bounces, with Pagan hitting a double that hopped off the third-base bag.

Pitching in San Francisco for the first time since 2008, Verlander scuffed at the rubber while warming up for the first inning, pulled off his glove after badly over-throwing a curve and kept taking deep breaths. He hardly resembled the guy who was 3-0 with an 0.74 ERA in three playoff starts this year.

Ever since two poor outings in the 2006 Series against St. Louis - punctuated by two throwing errors - Verlander has worked hard to harness his emotions and 100 mph in the early going.

Verlander was trying to settle in when Sandoval tagged him, pouncing on an 0-2 fastball and lining it into the front row over the center-field wall. Quite a start for the team that finished last in the majors in home runs.

Get this: It was the first three-homer game at the stadium originally known as Pac Bell Park since the very first one, when Kevin Elster did it for the Dodgers in 2000. Nope, not even home run king Barry Bonds had done this.

It was certainly a moment of retribution of Sandoval. He was benched during the 2010 World Series, his production and confidence down, his weight up. In the stands on this night, fans wearing furry panda hats celebrated with him. □



# No home field advantage for Rams in London

**MATTIAS KAREN**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LONDON (AP)** — The St. Louis Rams are familiar with fans cheering for the opposition, even at their home games.

They're likely to get an even bigger dose of that Sunday when they go up against the New England Patriots at Wembley in the annual NFL game in London.

The Rams are technically the home team, but the Patriots — and especially Tom Brady — have a much bigger international following and may get more fan support.

The Rams (3-4) already had a taste of that in the home loss to Green Bay on Sunday, when thousands of raucous cheeseheads made themselves heard at the Edward Jones Dome.

"We had a lot of Green Bay Packer fans in our stadium last weekend," coach Jeff Fisher said. "So they travel very well as well. Didn't bother us, didn't have an impact on the outcome of the game. We're excited to be here."

The Rams held their first full practice in London on Wednesday, at the training grounds of Premier League soccer club Arsenal north of the capital. Rams owner Stan Kroenke is also the majority shareholder of



**Members of the St. Louis Rams' squad take part in an NFL training session at Arsenal soccer club's training facilities in London Colney, England, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. The Rams are to play the New England Patriots at Wembley stadium in London, Sunday, Oct. 28 in a regular season NFL game.**

**Associated Press**

Arsenal, and his interests in the British market are part of the reason why the organization was willing to give up a home game in St. Louis to travel overseas. The Rams were originally set to play a game in London for three straight years — creating speculation that Kroenke may eventually consider moving the team overseas permanently — but dropped plans to return in 2013 and 2014.

That means quarterback Sam Bradford, for one, is keen on making the most of this one opportunity to

build an international fan base for the organization.

"It's a big stage, a big opportunity," Bradford said. "Obviously, playing over here, it's going to be broadcast all over the world." But Bradford also realizes that his team isn't the main attraction for an international audience.

"We're playing the Patriots, one of most well-known, if not the most well-known teams in the league," he said. "They've been one of the best for quite a while now."

The Patriots have already

played in one of the five previous regular-season games in London, beating Tampa Bay at Wembley in 2009. That added to the popularity of a team that already had a solid European fan base because of the star power of Brady and three recent Super Bowl titles.

So defensive end Chris Long isn't going to be offended when the crowd starts cheering for the "away" team.

"That's fine," Long said. "We're the underdogs, maybe some fans will be

behind us because we're underdogs. But we're not really worried about that. We're happy about any support we get, but we understand the Patriots are kind of a worldwide brand. That's what we're trying to do, build our brand worldwide, so it's a great opportunity on Sunday."

However, the Rams are hoping to feel more at home in one way.

The team opted to fly to London on Monday evening, arriving early Tuesday to get plenty of time to get used to the time difference and atmosphere. The Patriots will arrive Friday, meaning they'll have a much shorter time to get rid of the jetlag.

"I think our advantage is coming over here early," defensive tackle Michael Brockers said. "Being over here a little earlier, and getting used to the time change, being as alert as we can on Sunday."

All three of the Rams' wins so far have come in St. Louis, and the strong performances at home are the reason they have already exceeded their total number of victories from last season, when they were tied for the league's worst record at 2-14. Now they're eager to start a new streak on Sunday. □

## GP of America in NJ postponed until 2014



**In this Monday, June 11, 2012 file photograph, the race car belonging to defending Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel is on display with the Manhattan skyline in the background during a news conference in Weehawken, N.J.**

**Associated Press**

**PARIS (AP)** — Formula One's inaugural Grand Prix of America in New Jersey has been postponed until 2014.

The race was originally scheduled for June 16 next year, subject to confirmation. The street circuit course takes in a spectac-

ular backdrop along the Hudson River and through the towns of Weehawken and West New York.

"The event is not going to happen" in 2013 as planned, F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone said Friday. "Everything is set up, but it's now too late to finish on time."

Weehawken Mayor Richard Turner earlier told The Jersey Journal that the race would not go ahead next year. The newspaper said Turner and another unnamed mayor claim organizers were behind on road repairs and permits.

"The reason is because

they didn't quite know what they were doing," Ecclestone said. "They got all the permissions together. Everything was done, that was all fine, but then they missed the boat a little on some financing that was coming in."

Race promoter Leo Hindery Jr. is optimistic it is only a minor setback.

"We are going to be racing at Port Imperial, unfortunately just not as soon as we hoped and expected," he said. "We promised Governor Christie, the towns, the sport and its international fans the best possible experience, and unfortunately we need ad-


ditional time to ensure that happens."

The construction issues mainly center on the development of the riverfront facilities, the pit lane area and the paddock garage. Ecclestone ruled out the Turkish Grand Prix returning as a temporary replacement, saying "No, no, no. It will be 19 races."

Meanwhile, in a statement from the race promoters, Ecclestone made it clear he remains committed to seeing F1 blossom in the United States.

"We will continue to work closely together to realize our dream in 2014," he said. □





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# NHL's Islanders moving to Brooklyn in 2015

**By IRA PODELL**  
**AP Sports Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** - Now hockey is coming to Brooklyn. The NHL's New York Islanders have agreed to move to the Barclays Center starting with the 2015-16 season. "Hello Brooklyn!" Islanders owner Charles Wang said as he made the announcement at a news conference Wednesday. The lease agreement is for 25 years. Officials in nearby Nassau County, N.Y., have struggled for years to come up with a plan to either renovate or build a new arena to replace the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, which opened in 1972. Wang, the founder of a computer software company, presented a plan in 2003 for a privately funded multibillion-dollar development of housing, retail and a new arena on the property, but the proposal foundered amid community opposition. Wang had long threatened to move the team from its home in Uniondale after

the club's lease expired following the 2014-15 season. He complained that the dilapidated building is unsuited for a professional sports franchise. The Barclays deal took

league sports to prove it," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. Earlier this month, the U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the

found inadequately lighted exit routes and other violations. A statement from SMG, the company that manages the Coliseum for Nassau County, said it would contest the citation. □



**This Sept. 20, 2012 file photo shows workers sweeping the plaza in front of the main entrance to the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.**  
**Associated Press**

seven months to complete and was finished Tuesday night, according to Wang, who said he had wanted to keep the team local. "Brooklyn is big time and now we have the big-

Nassau Coliseum for 16 violations of workplace health and safety standards. OSHA said workers had been exposed to asbestos. The areas were not accessible to the general public. It also

# 2016 Copa America to be played in United States

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — South American football governing body CONMEBOL will hold a special Copa America tournament in 2016 at the United States to commemorate the organization's 100th year. CONMEBOL said at a meeting of its executive committee in the Argentine capital Wednesday that the tournament would include the 10 South American confederation teams, plus the United States, Mexico and four others from the CONCACAF region, which comprises North and Central America and the Caribbean. The event will take place between the 2015 and 2019 Copa America tournaments. CONMEBOL said in a statement that the four CONCACAF teams would be added

according to their rankings in the Gold Cup, the CONCACAF regional championship. CONMEBOL said the event will be played in July, but offered few other details. It's the first time the event will be played outside South America and could be a huge financial success showcasing Brazil and Argentina to North American fans. The event will go head-to-head with the 2016 European championship in France, which will be expanded to 24 teams for the first time. CONMEBOL also said Japan and Mexico will play in the 2015 Copa America as guest teams. Uruguay won the 2011 Copa America, which was played in Argentina. □



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Martin Short Winona Ryder

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Liam Neeson Famke Janssen

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## Roche probed on side effects reporting work

**MARIA CHENG**  
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Europe's top drug regulator announced Tuesday it is taking action against pharmaceutical giant Roche for allegedly failing to properly report the side effects of 19 drugs being used by U.S. patients.

It is the first time the European Medicines Agency has begun a so-called 'infringement proceeding' against a drug maker. European regulations lay out numerous requirements for pharmaceuticals, including reporting suspected side effects and submitting such cases to officials.

Eight of the drugs involved are used for the treatment of cancer, including breast cancer. They include Avastin, Herceptin, Tarceva, and Xeloda. The flu drug Tamiflu was also included in the list.

British authorities brought the problem to the attention of the European authorities in May after noticing "serious shortcomings" in how Roche AG reported potential side effects.

Regulators said about 80,000 reports by consumers of possible adverse effects to drugs sold in the U.S. had not been properly analyzed. Among those reports were over 15,000 deaths, though it was unclear if those deaths were caused by Roche medicines.

The regulator said there was no evidence that users of Roche's drugs were at risk. The European Medicines Agency did not state what the side effects were but said it was more concerned that these potential reactions were not properly reported.

"It could have been anything like a rash on your hand to something more serious," including death, said Monika Benstetter, an agency spokeswoman. "There was a failure in the system," she said, noting officials didn't have information on how many of the side effects may have been reported. □

## Study:

# Aspirin may help treat some colon cancers

**MARILYNN MARCHIONE**  
AP Chief Medical Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Aspirin, one of the world's oldest and cheapest drugs, has shown remarkable promise in treating colon cancer in people with mutations in a gene that's thought to play a role in the disease.

Among patients with the mutations, those who regularly took aspirin lived longer than those who didn't, a major study found. Five years after their cancers were diagnosed, 97 percent of the aspirin users were still alive versus 74 percent of those not taking the drug.

Aspirin seemed to make no difference in patients who did not have the mutations. This sort of study can't prove that aspirin caused the better survival, and doctors say more research must confirm the findings before aspirin can be recommended more widely. The study wasn't designed to test aspirin; people were taking it on their own for various reasons.

Still, the results suggest that

this simple medicine might be the cheapest gene-targeting therapy ever found for cancer. About one-sixth of all colon cancer patients have the mutated gene and might be helped by aspirin. And aspirin costs just pennies a day.



**Aspirin, one of the world's oldest and cheapest drugs, has shown remarkable promise in treating colon cancer in people with certain genetic mutations that often play a role in the disease. The study appears in the Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012 New England Journal of Medicine. (AP Photo/Houston Chronicle, Daveinsel)**

"It's exciting to think that something that's already in the medicine cabinet may really have an important effect" beyond relieving pain and helping to prevent heart attacks, said

Dr. Andrew Chan of Massachusetts General Hospital. He and others from Harvard Medical School led the study, which appears in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Cancers of the colon or rectum are a leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide. More than 140,000 new cases and 51,000 deaths from them are expected this year in the United States.

Several studies suggest that aspirin may help fight cancer, especially colorectal tumors. It is often recommended for people who have colon cancer and others at high risk of developing it. But it's not advised for wider use, or for cancer prevention, because it can cause serious bleeding in the stomach and gut.

What has been lacking, doctors say, is a good way to tell which people might benefit the most, so aspirin's risks would be justified. Chan's study suggests a way to do that.

It involved 964 people diagnosed with various stages of colon cancer who were

among nearly 175,000 participants in two health studies based at Harvard that began in the 1980s. Every two years, they filled out surveys on their health habits, including aspirin use.

Most had surgery for their cancer, and many also had chemotherapy. They gave tumor tissue samples that could be tested for gene activity. Researchers focused on one gene, PIK3CA, that is involved in a key pathway that fuels cancer's growth and spread. Aspirin seems to blunt that pathway, so the scientists looked at its use in relation to the gene.

In those whose tumors had a mutation in that gene, regular aspirin use cut the risk of dying of colon cancer by 82 percent and of dying of any cause by 46 percent during the study period of about 13 years.

Only two of the 62 regular aspirin users whose tumors had the mutated gene died within five years of their cancer diagnosis versus 23 of 90 non-aspirin users with such a mutation. □

## Report:

# Most women need Paps every 3 or 5 years

Most women can wait three to five years between checks for cervical cancer, depending on their age and test choice, say guidelines issued Monday.

Many medical groups have long recommended a Pap test every three years for most women. The new advice from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says that's true for women ages 21 to 29 whose Paps show no sign of trouble.

But for healthy women ages 30 to 65, the preferred check is a Pap plus a test for the cancer-causing HPV virus, the group concluded. If both show everything's fine, they can wait five years for further screening.

The guidelines from America's largest OB-GYN organization agree with advice issued earlier this year by

a government panel, the American Cancer Society and other medical groups — showing growing consensus that it's safe for the right women to wait longer

between Paps.

Cervical cancer grows so slowly that regular Pap smears, which examine cells scraped from the cervix, can find signs early

enough to treat before a tumor even forms.

Certain strains of HPV, the human papillomavirus, cause most cervical cancer, but the infection has to persist for a number of years to do its damage. HPV is a super-common virus in young women, whose bodies usually clear the infection on their own.

Thus, health groups don't recommend routinely testing 20-somethings for HPV because it would cause too many false alarms.

A Pap averages around \$40; HPV tests can add another \$50 to \$100.

The guidelines also say:

—Women 30 and older still can choose a Pap alone every three years.

—Screening shouldn't begin before age 21.

—Women over 65 can end screening if prior testing hasn't found problems. □



**Most women can wait three to five years between checks for cervical cancer, depending on their age and test choice, say guidelines issued Monday. Many medical groups have long recommended a Pap test every three years for most women.**

(Handout Photo)






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# Green buildings on the rise in Persian Gulf states

**MICHAEL CASEY**

**AP Environmental Writer**

**DOHA, Qatar (AP)** — With massive steel Sidra trees sprouting from the base of the building and a 9-meter (yard) high sculpture of a spider in the lobby protecting a sack of grey and white eggs, Qatar National Convention Center is hard to ignore.

But it's what most visitors don't see that may become the building's lasting legacy in a region far better known for over-the-top excesses than conservation. From the sustainably logged wood used in its construction to the 3,500-square-meters of solar panels on the roof, the building designed by Japanese architect Arata Isozaki is considered one of the most environmentally sound convention centers in the world.

"We want to change people's mindsets," said Ali al-Khalifa, as he led a visitor through an exhibition hall where dozens of ceiling windows helped cut down on electricity. It will take center stage in November when it hosts the U.N. Climate Change Conference, the first to be held by a top oil producer.

"We have to make something stay friendly to the environment. We are part of this earth," said al-Khalifa, the chief executive officer of Astad Project Management which oversaw the construction. "All the oil and gas countries are moving to a green concept to insure the new generation understands they have to preserve this energy and have something efficient." Green buildings would seem an oddity in this tiny Gulf nation which has plenty of oil and gas and, according to the International Energy Agency, the highest per capita emissions in the

world, closely followed by Gulf neighbors Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

But attitudes about energy use are changing across the Gulf. There is a growing recognition that the once seemingly limitless fossil fuels will someday run out and that these countries need to chart a more sustainable path.

Buildings are a logical place to start. They consume up to 70 percent of energy in parts of the Gulf

used internationally to certify green buildings.

But when it comes to buildings in the works that are trying to earn LEED status, the Middle East is among the leaders. It has 1,348 LEED-registered buildings which surpasses all but Asia and the United States.

"Over the past couple of years, there has been a focus on trying to drive sustainable construction practices," said Peter Templeton, senior vice president of global market develop-

sustainable community with 100 buildings using an average of a third less energy.

Lusail City, a planned development for nearly 200,000 people on the edge of Doha, has promised to adhere to the country's voluntary green building guidelines — similar to those in the UAE and other Gulf countries — which set standards for everything from water consumption to traffic congestion.

In Saudi Arabia, authorities have applied for LEED

the building and designs that orient the structure to limit the sun exposure.

But as the university campus shows, the region is also tapping technologies that are centuries old to solve its energy problems.

Along with its water savings and solar power, the project features wind towers, lattice-like shading on windows known as mashrabiya and a tent-inspired roof system that blocks the sun and extends throughout the campus.

"When we start a project, we will do some research on what people built in this location before they had electricity. How did they keep buildings warm or cool?" said Bill Odell, a senior vice president for HOK Architects who designed the KAUST campus. "We did that on this project and there were serious techniques that clearly worked. ... All these ideas we took out of traditional Islamic architecture."

The challenge now, experts say, is going beyond a handful of high profile projects and applying green building practices to the bulk of Gulf construction — such as low-rise office towers or residential housing projects. To do that, governments in the region will have to make green building codes compulsory — most are now voluntary — and provide greater incentives for developers to build or retrofit more sustainably. The other hurdle is sourcing building materials locally, which would cut down on emissions from transporting such things as steel, cement and wood to the region. Due to the lack of resources in the Gulf, most everything is imported and companies producing things like recycled steel are still too few to meet demand. □



**In this Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 photo, solar panels are seen on the roof of the Qatar National Convention Center (QNCC) in Doha, Qatar.**

**Associated Press**

— compared to 40 percent worldwide — due to the preponderance of glass skyscrapers and brutally hot conditions from Dubai to the Saudi city of Jeddah, according to Thom Bohlen, chief technical officer for the Middle East Centre for Sustainable Development. The Middle East has come late to the green building movement, lagging far behind the United States, Europe and Asia in building structures that emit fewer emissions and consume less water, according to the United States Green Building Council. The USGBC's voluntary program, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, is

ment for the USGBC. "It is mostly focused on new construction rather than retrofits of existing building." Dubai in the UAE is home to one of the region's first green shopping malls and is building an eco-friendly mosque in 2013. On the outskirts of the country's capital, Abu Dhabi, the government-run Masdar Institute has built the first phase of a pre-planned city that aims to be powered by renewable sources including solar. Qatar and Saudi Arabia, though, appear to have even bigger ambitions.

In Doha, work started in 2010 on Msheireb Downtown Doha, which promises to be the world's largest

certification for the King Abdullah Financial District in Riyadh, which will be home to the country's stock exchange. The nation's first LEED-certified project, the 26-building campus of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, opened in 2009 and recycles all its wastewater, uses 27 percent less energy than a typical campus and was built with 20 percent recycled content.

Most of these green buildings rely on 21st century solutions to reduce their footprint — high tech operating systems that ration electricity and power, additional insulation and thicker glass to reduce heat coming into



# Bleeding stops on Wall Street after sell-off

**MATTHEW CRAFT**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The steep losses finally stopped Wednesday as the stock market turned calm, a day after one of its biggest sell-offs of the year. Indexes ended with slight losses after the Federal Reserve said the U.S. economy still needs support.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 25.19 points at 13,077.34, a day after one of its worst drops this year.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 4.36 points to close at 1,408.75 while the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.76 points to 2,991.70.

"Today we're assessing the damage," said Mark Luschini, chief investment strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott. "Everybody just got clobbered yesterday." Lower corporate revenue and expectations for the rest of the year drove the Dow down 243 points Tuesday, its third-biggest drop this year. DuPont, 3M, UPS and Xerox all reported lower sales than a year ago. "It seemed out of the blue, but what we were seeing was stock prices adjusting to corporate profitability," Luschini said.

The market flitted between small gains and losses for much of the day. Indexes started to fade after 2 p.m., after the Fed repeated its assessment that the U.S. economic recovery remains modest at best.

At the end of its latest two-day meeting, the Fed said the economy is still expanding at just a "moderate pace" and that it needs time to see whether a new bond-buying effort launched in September will spur economic growth and

jump of 19 percent. Facebook has swung widely since its IPO at \$38, and has traded as low as \$17.55.

AT&T, which is part of the Dow average, said it added the fewest wireless customers since 2003, far behind Verizon Wireless. AT&T's re-



**Specialist Michael Pistillo, right, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. Stocks are opening higher on Wall Street, following a big drop the day before, after big companies including Boeing reported stronger profits.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

new hiring.

The latest batch of earnings reports wasn't as dire, and there was the occasional piece of encouraging news.

Facebook had its best day since its stock market debut in May. The company said late Tuesday that 14 percent of its advertising revenue came from mobile devices, allaying some investor concerns.

The social network's stock soared \$3.73 to \$23.23, a

sults still managed to beat the estimates of financial analysts. AT&T slid 29 cents to \$34.71.

A measure of manufacturing in China, the world's second-largest economy after the United States, improved this month to a three-month high. China's white-hot economic growth has been slowing. Homebuilder stocks gained after the Commerce Department reported that sales of new homes jumped

last month to the highest level in more than two years. Toll Brothers rose 70 cents to \$35.25 and D.R. Horton rose 32 cents to \$21.41.

A drop in profits for Norfolk Southern hit other railroad stocks. Norfolk Southern reported a 27 percent slump in quarterly earnings late Tuesday, as falling coal prices led to lower revenue. Many utilities have favored using cheap natural gas instead of burning coal this year, pushing down coal prices and weighing on railroad operators.

Norfolk Southern fell \$4.92 to \$61.09. Union Pacific lost \$2.35 to \$120.87.

Prices for U.S. government bonds inched lower, sending yields up. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note edged up to 1.79 percent from 1.76 percent late Tuesday.

Among other stocks in the news:

— Netflix dropped \$8.10, or 12 percent, to \$60.12. Late Tuesday, it slashed its prediction for how many U.S. video-streaming subscribers it would add this year to 4.7 million to 5 million. It had predicted it would add as many as 7 million.

— Dow Chemical rose \$1.33 to \$29.88. The company announced a wide-ranging restructuring plan late Tuesday that includes cutting 2,400 jobs and closing 20 manufacturing facilities. The company cited slowing economic growth in Europe and elsewhere. □

## Daimler lowers 2012 outlook as Q3's profit slips

**JUERGEN BAETZ**

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — German automaker Daimler AG lowered its full-year earnings target Wednesday after its third quarter net profit declined 11 percent to €1.20 billion (\$1.6 billion) from €1.36 billion a year ago.

The bad news for shareholders came as the company's earnings report was accidentally sent to some media, forcing Daimler to advance its full release by a day.

The mishap came just a week after Google Inc. also saw its earnings report released ahead of time.

The carmaker, based in Stuttgart, said its revenue rose by 8 percent to €28.6 billion, thanks to stronger sales of its Mercedes Benz luxury cars, but overall car and commercial vehicle sales remained almost flat at 528,600 units.

CEO Dieter Zetsche, who also heads the Mercedes division, said Daimler achieved good earnings "considering the significantly more difficult market conditions."

Still, Daimler lowered its full-year operating profit outlook due to the economic challenges in its key markets and more intense competition, it said. □

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## 586 8107/592 7858

## Fed cites moderate US growth, takes no new action

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Two weeks before a U.S. election focused on the economy, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday that its help is still needed to increase growth and lower unemployment.

The Fed took no action after a two-day policy meeting. It wants time to assess whether the aggressive steps it launched in September will help the economy.

Last month, the Fed began buying mortgage bonds to try to push long-term interest rates lower and make home buying more affordable. It also said it planned to keep its benchmark short-term rate near zero through mid-2015.

In a statement Wednesday, the Fed said the U.S. economy is improving moderately. But it said job growth has been slow and the unemployment rate remains elevated.

It noted that consumer spending has strengthened slightly and that housing has shown further signs of improvement. Growth in business investment has slowed, though.

The Fed said inflation has recently risen slightly because of higher energy prices. But it said inflation over the long run should remain mild.

The Fed's statement was largely expected, and it didn't move stock or bond prices.

"After the big changes in September and the presidential election less than two weeks away, officials were probably happy to make this week's meeting

as much of a non-event for markets as possible," said Jim O'Sullivan, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics.

The statement was approved on an 11-1 vote. Jeffrey Lacker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, objected for the seventh consecutive meeting.

Lacker has been concerned that the Fed's policy steps could lead to higher inflation.

The unemployment rate fell in September to 7.8 percent, the first time it's been below 8 percent since January 2009. But the economy is still growing too slowly to accelerate job growth.

The economy grew at a meager 1.3 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. Economists think it grew slightly faster in the July-September quarter. The government will report its first estimate of third-quarter growth on Friday.

Still, many employers re-

main wary of hiring, in part because of tax increases and spending cuts set to kick in next year and also because of a slowing global economy.



**A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the decision of the Federal Reserve, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012. The Fed took no new action after a two-day policy meeting. It wants time to assess whether aggressive steps launched in September will boost growth and job creation.**

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The bond purchases the Fed launched last month are designed to lower interest rates and cause stock and home prices to rise, creating a "wealth effect." When consumers

feel wealthier, they're typically more willing to spend, thereby boosting the economy.

Fed officials reiterated Wednesday that they in-

ployment sharply.

Critics note that interest rates have already been at or near all-time lows. They worry that the Fed's injection of steadily more money into the financial system will eventually ignite inflation or create dangerous bubbles in the prices of stocks or other assets.

Since the Fed unveiled its latest plans last month, the average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage has touched 3.36 percent — the lowest since mortgage buyer Freddie Mac began keeping records in 1971. Cheap loans have helped lift home sales, prices and construction — key pillars of the housing market's gradual but steady comeback.

Some analysts say they expect the Fed to take action at its next meeting, Dec. 11-12. That's because one Fed program that's intended to keep long-term borrowing rates down will expire at year's end. The program is called "Operation Twist." □

## Facebook shares post biggest single-day gain

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook's stock gained the most in a single day Wednesday since it began trading in May, a sign that the social media company's complicated relationship with Wall Street may be getting brighter.

It's been a rough five months since the social network's initial public stock offering, and it's too early to tell whether investors' optimism is here to stay. But on Wednesday they latched

on to clear signs of growth in the company's third-quarter earnings report. Several analysts upgraded the stock.

Besides posting quarterly results that inched past Wall Street's expectations, Facebook on Tuesday also gave details for the first time on how much money it made from mobile ads. This has been a concern since before its IPO. Although the majority of 1 billion people who use Facebook each month now access it using a mobile device, the 8-year-

old company was created in the age of desktop computers, for Web pages. Facebook now calls itself a "mobile-first" company, but it only started showing mobile ads earlier this year.

On Tuesday, Facebook said that nearly \$153 million of its \$1.26 billion revenue came from mobile advertisements.

The rate of advertising revenue growth also accelerated since the second quarter.

Shares of Facebook Inc., which is based in Menlo

Park, California, rose \$3.73, or 19 percent, to close at \$23.23 on Wednesday. It's by far the stock's biggest one-day gain, in percentage terms, since Facebook went public on May 18. Still, shares are still off 39 percent from the company's IPO price of \$38.

In his upgrade of Facebook, Citi Investment Research analyst Mark Mahaney said that for the first time since the IPO, investors see a reasonably priced stock combined with accelerating growth at the company. □



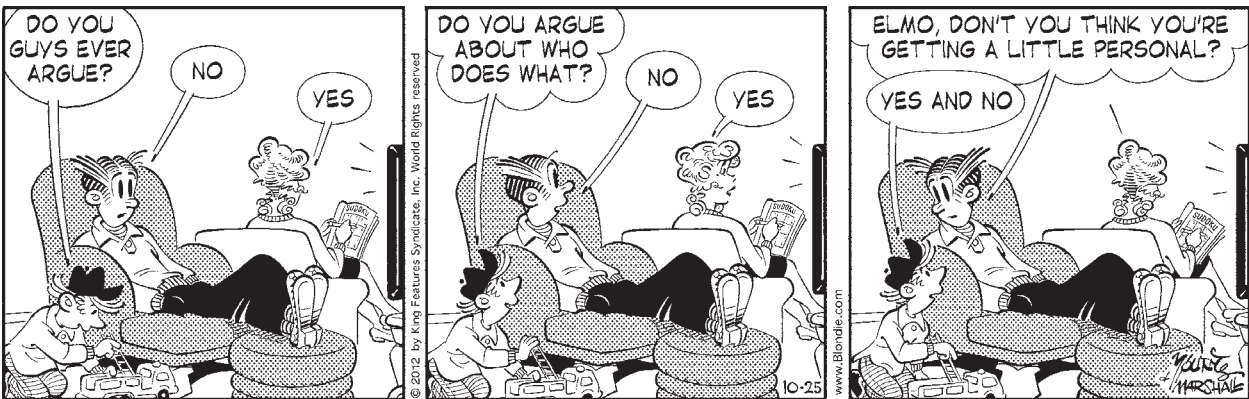
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



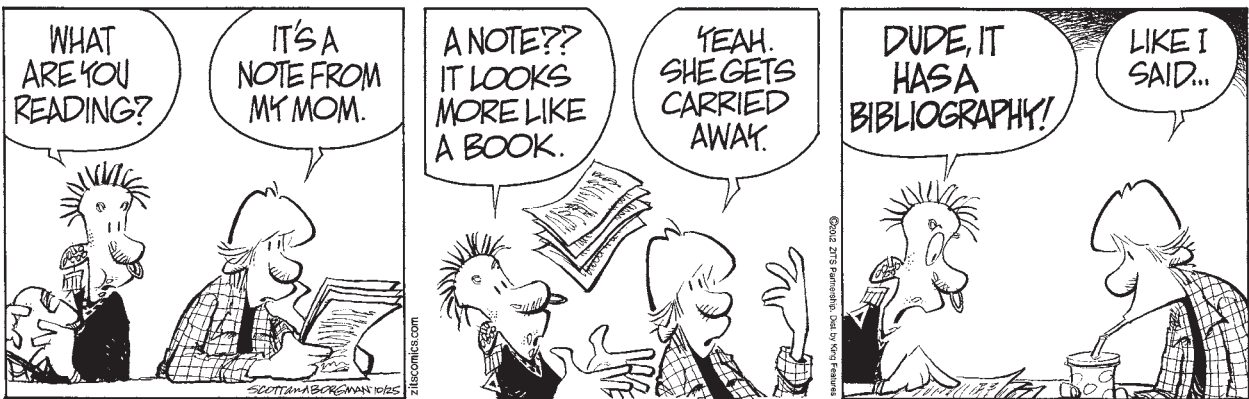
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	3			9				
7	9		3		4			
				6		2		
	5				3		8	
1		2				7		
	6		4					
		9		7		5	2	
			5			1		

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

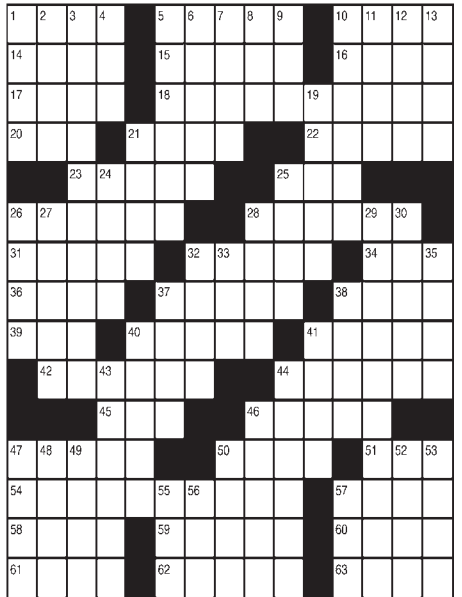
6	9	2	4	5	7	1	3	8
5	7	3	8	9	1	2	6	4
1	8	4	6	3	2	5	9	7
2	3	8	9	7	4	6	1	5
7	4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3
9	6	1	5	8	3	7	4	2
3	2	6	1	4	5	8	7	9
8	1	7	3	2	9	4	5	6
4	5	9	7	6	8	3	2	1

ACROSS

- 1 Ran up a tab
- 5 Musical drama
- 10 "\_\_\_ and Circumstance"
- 14 Flat bean
- 15 Rise
- 16 Hawaiian feast
- 17 June 6, 1944
- 18 Santa Anita and Pimlico
- 20 Official with a six-yr. term
- 21 Computer fixer, for short
- 22 Pains
- 23 \_\_\_ a party; go uninvited
- 25 Pass away
- 26 Loathsome
- 28 Like a good steak
- 31 The Home \_\_\_; Lowe's rival
- 32 Sneakers and oxfords
- 34 \_\_\_ and tonic; cocktail
- 36 "Phooey!"
- 37 Drive too fast
- 38 Mediocre
- 39 \_\_\_ up; arrange
- 40 Get on one's feet
- 41 Shoestrings
- 42 Item worth saving
- 44 Shop that sells bread & cakes
- 45 Circular edge
- 46 \_\_\_ with; bearing
- 47 Frighten
- 50 Transmit
- 51 Little child
- 54 Soldier on horseback
- 57 Consequently
- 58 Shortly
- 59 Hut or mansion
- 60 Mrs. Munster
- 61 Crooked
- 62 External
- 63 Frosts a cake

DOWN

- 1 Cutlass, e.g.
- 2 Broad



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/25/12

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	O	A	F	S	A	T	O	P	M	E	A	L	
A	N	V	I	L	L	I	N	E	A	X	L	E	
S	C	O	N	E	E	D	E	N	T	I	D	E	
T	E	N	D	E	N	C	Y	T	O	I	L	E	
		E	V	E	S	B	U	R	N	E	R	S	
A	D	O	R	E	S	T	E	P	E	E			
L	A	W	S	T	A	I	R	G	E	A	R	S	
S	T	E	P	S	P	R	E	E	S	L	O	P	
O	A	S	I	S	P	E	T	I	T	M	A	R	
		C	O	U	L	D	D	R	E	A	R	Y	
P	L	A	C	A	T	E	H	E	I	R			
R	E	P	O	R	T	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	S
O	V	A	L	E	L	L	A	O	N	I	O	N	
N	E	R	O	R	E	A	L	D	O	N	N	A	
G	E	T	S	S	O	B	S	S	W	E	E	P	

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10/25/12

- 3 Set free
- 4 24-hour period
- 5 Mean woman in a fairy tale
- 6 Alberta or freestone
- 7 Carve in glass
- 8 Be regretful
- 9 Likely
- 10 Situated
- 11 Cry of mild pain
- 12 Manufacture
- 13 Face, slangily
- 19 \_\_\_ cats and dogs; pours
- 21 Tight, as a rope
- 24 Cheer loudly
- 25 Owner's paper
- 26 Chances
- 27 Baseball's Jeter
- 28 \_\_\_ the line; obeyed
- 29 Self-absorbed
- 30 Staircase piece
- 32 Ship's pole
- 33 Rooster's mate
- 35 Too inquisitive
- 37 Flower stalk
- 38 "Oh, for Pete's \_\_\_!"
- 40 Salesman's line
- 41 Cheryl or Alan
- 43 Straying from the right path
- 44 Streamer with a message
- 46 Rent long-term
- 47 Strikebreaker
- 48 Walking stick
- 49 Cosmetics name
- 50 Pornography
- 52 Make eyes at
- 53 Playthings
- 55 Fraternity letter
- 56 Thou
- 57 Actor Wallach



# Even beauty items face the aging process

ALIX STRAUSS

© 2012 New York Times

Should beauty products be stamped with expiration dates like cartons of milk, indicating how long they will last before turning? Some industry professionals say yes, pointing to the increasing number of all-natural and organic products that have shunned preservatives. Conversely, there are those multitasking unguents that layer chemical upon chemical, which can increase volatility and shorten the product's life span.

"As companies create more complex products to simplify consumers' regimens, they end up with a plethora of problems," said Dr. Joel Schlessinger, a dermatologist in Omaha, Neb., and the president and founder of LovelySkin.com, a beauty site specializing in products mostly available in a dermatologist's or a cosmetic surgeon's office.

"Instead of applying two creams, you're applying one, and there are certain products that simply don't play well with each other," he said.

Benzoyl peroxide, for example, has a shelf life of three months once opened, Schlessinger said, and can degrade the antibiotics it's sometimes paired with even when sealed.

"That doesn't mean it doesn't work, but if it's benzoyl peroxide plus an antibiotic, you're losing the other product's effect," he said.

Other popular ingredients vulnerable to heat and sunlight are plant extracts, antioxidants, retinol, glycolic acids and vitamin C. Packaging is also important: Eye cream, for example, tends to have a high bacterial growth rate because it tends to come in jars, said Ron Robinson, a chemist in Manhattan who specializes in the technology of cosmetic ingredients and the founder and chief executive of BeautyStat.com, which reviews new products.

"Ingredients may not coexist well if they have different pH levels," said Dr. Ruthie

Harper, an internist in Austin, Texas, and the creator of Skinshift, a line of products supposedly tailored to a patient's genetic makeup. "One may be low-level or more acidic, and another might be too high, or have more alkaline. The mixture may render them neutral

line, FixMySkin Balms, each item of which is stamped. Lush, the Britain-based all-natural company, considers the manufacture and use-by dates it places on every item in its catalog a major selling point. While the majority of Lush's goods have a 14-month shelf life,

one-way pumps that block air from coming into the product extend the life." In January, Decleor released Life Radiance Double Radiance (\$67), which contains one part cream (for radiance, the company claims) and one part gel (to protect the skin) – presented together but divided in separate tubes. Similarly packaged items include SkinMedica TNS Essential Serum (\$245), Jan Marini Age Intervention Duality (\$90), La Prairie Skin Caviar Liquid Lift (\$500) and Remede Intensive Double Serum (\$130).

"In this case there is no shelf-life risk because the customer is mixing gel and cream just before use," said Michel Sabadie, the director of research and development for Shiseido International France, which owns Decleor. □



In an undated photo, perishable beauty products in a refrigerator. The move to all-natural or organic ingredients in beauty products have some industry professionals suggesting that expiration dates are needed.

(Tony Cenicola/The New York Times)

or inactive. Other ingredients may not be chemically compatible. The truth is, the more ingredients, the shorter the usage."

How short is rarely clear. Expiration dates on over-the-counter cosmetics or skin care products, with the exception of sunscreen, which is classified as a drug, aren't mandated by the Food and Drug Administration. (Skinshift does not use expiration dates, although Harper said batch production is monitored and tracked.) Companies can perform stability tests and stamp their products accordingly, but it's costly and time-consuming.

"Most companies do not want to delay the launch of their product, which could take six months to a year," said Schlessinger, who said he spent \$70,000 on stability testing for his product

their BioFresh Face masks, the cornerstone of the brand, expire after 21 days, said Erica Vega, Lush's lead product and brand trainer. "We make them fresh weekly with fruits and vegetables, essential oils and cleansing clays, and deliver them to the shops where they sit on ice, like a fresh buffet," Vega said. "We want to provide the full effects of the vitamins, antioxidants and enzymes found in the fruits and vegetables."

Lush uses minimal packaging, but some companies are going in the other direction, with active ingredients sold together but in separate compartments.

"Air and bacteria begin to break down the purity and efficacy of ingredients once the product has been used," Robinson said. "Sterile packaging and new

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# Oregon scientists make embryos with 2 women, 1 man

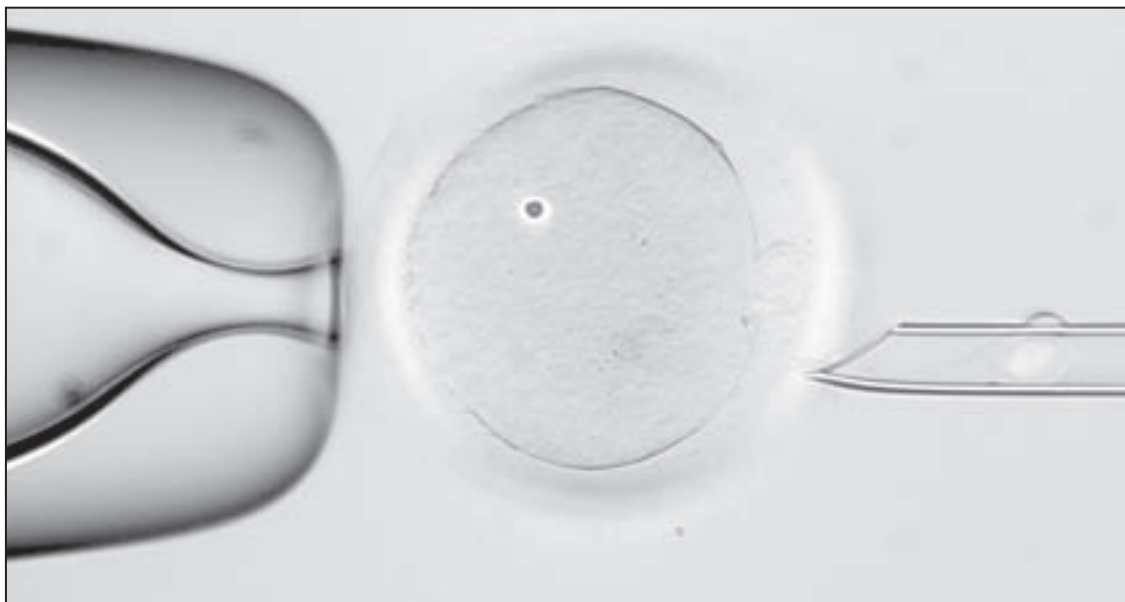
**MALCOLM RITTER**  
AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Scientists have created embryos with genes from one man and two women, using a provocative technique that could someday be used to prevent babies from inheriting certain rare incurable diseases.

The researchers at Oregon Health & Sciences University said they are not using the embryos to produce children, and it is not clear when or even if this technique will be put to use. But it has already stirred a debate over its risks and ethics in Britain, where scientists did similar work a few years ago.

The British experiments, reported in 2008, led to headlines about the possibility someday of babies with three parents. But that's an overstatement. The DNA from the second woman amounts to less than 1 percent of the embryo's genes, and it isn't the sort that makes a child look like Mom or Dad. The procedure is simply a way of replacing some defective genes that sabotage the normal workings of cells.

The British government is asking for public comment on the technology before



In this image made available by the Oregon Health & Science University, a faint white blotch in the tube at right is DNA that has been removed from a human egg, center. The red dot is from a laser used in the procedure.

it decides whether to allow its use in the future. One concern it cites is whether such DNA alteration could be an early step down a slippery slope toward “designer babies” — ordering up, say, a petite, blue-eyed girl or tall, dark-haired boy. Questions have also arisen about the safety of the technique, not only for the baby who results from the egg, but also for the child’s descendants.

In June, an influential British bioethics group concluded that the technology would be ethical to use if proven safe and effective. An expert panel in Britain said in

2011 that there was no evidence the technology was unsafe but urged further study.

Laurie Zoloth, a bioethicist at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, said in an interview that safety problems might not show up for several generations. She said she hopes the United States will follow Britain's lead in having a wide-ranging discussion of the technology.

While the kind of diseases it seeks to fight can be terrible, "this might not be the best way to address it," Zoloth said.

Over the past few years, scientists have reported that such experiments produced healthy monkeys

and that tests in human eggs showed encouraging results. The Oregon scientists reported Wednesday that they have produced about a dozen early human embryos and found the technique is highly effective in replacing DNA,

The genes they want to replace aren't the kind most people think of, which are found in the nucleus of cells and influence traits such as eye color and height.

Rather, these genes reside outside the nucleus in energy-producing structures called mitochondria.

These genes are passed along only by mothers, not fathers.

About 1 in every 5,000 children inherits a disease

caused by defective mitochondrial genes. The defects can cause many rare diseases with a host of symptoms, including strokes, epilepsy, dementia, blindness, deafness, kidney failure and heart disease.

The new technique, if approved someday for routine use, would allow a woman to give birth to a baby who inherits her nucleus DNA but not her mitochondrial DNA. Here's how it would work:

Doctors would need unfertilized eggs from the patient and a healthy donor. They would remove the nucleus DNA from the donor eggs and replace it with nucleus DNA from the patient's eggs. So, they would end up with eggs that have the prospective mother's nucleus DNA, but the donor's healthy mitochondrial DNA.

In a report published online Wednesday by the journal *Nature*, Shoukhrat Mitalipov and others at OHSU report transplanting nucleus DNA into 64 unfertilized eggs from healthy donors. After fertilization, 13 eggs showed normal development and went on to form early embryos.

The researchers also reported that four monkeys born in 2009 from eggs that had DNA transplants remain healthy, giving some assurance on safety.

Mitalipov said in an interview that the researchers hope to get federal approval to test the procedure in women, but that current restrictions on using federal money on human embryo research stand in the way of such studies.

The research was funded by the university and the Leducq Foundation in Paris. □

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Taylor Swift performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012 in New York.

Associated Press

## Swift, Minaj to perform at American Music Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It'll be a little bit country and a little bit rock 'n' roll on stage at next month's American Music Awards. Organizers announced Wednesday that Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj and Linkin Park will perform at the 40th annual ceremony on Nov. 18. All are up for awards. Minaj is the night's leading

nominee, along with Rihanna, with four bids each. Swift is nominated for favorite female country artist, and Linkin Park is in the running for alternative artist. Fans can pick the winners by voting online. Christina Aguilera will also perform at the ceremony in Los Angeles, where it will be broadcast live on ABC. □

## Alicia Keys launches storytelling app for kids



This March 5, 2012 file photo shows performer Alicia Keys attending the Stella McCartney fashion house presentation for Women's Fall-Winter, ready-to-wear 2013 fashion collection, during Paris Fashion week. After

Associated Press

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alicia Keys is launching a storytelling app for kids.

"The Journals of Mama Mae and LeeLee" is about a young New York City girl's relationship with her wise

grandmother. It will be released Thursday for \$3.99 and is inspired by Keys' relationship with her grandmother. The interactive app is centered in LeeLee's bedroom. It allows users to read books, play music and write in a journal. □

## Cruise files \$50M suit against magazine publisher

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An attorney for Tom Cruise says he has filed a \$50 million defamation lawsuit against the publishers of Life & Style magazine for articles that said the actor has abandoned his 6-year-old daughter Suri.

Bert Fields says the lawsuit was filed Wednesday in Los Angeles federal court. Fields says Cruise doesn't like to file lawsuits but that the assertion that the actor

has abandoned his daughter is a "vicious lie." If Cruise prevails, Fields says his client would give the money to charity.

An email message left for a spokeswoman for Bauer Publishing, which produces Life & Style, was not immediately returned.

Cruise and Siri's mother, Katie Holmes, were divorced earlier this year. They had been married for six years. □



## 'The Hobbit' to be released in Dolby Atmos



This publicity file photo released by Warner Bros., shows the character Gollum voiced by Andy Serkis in a scene from the fantasy adventure "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey."

Associated Press

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Middle-earth will sound more realistic in "The Hobbit."

Dolby Laboratories Inc. and director Peter Jackson's Park Road Post Production announced Wednesday that "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" will be mixed and released in Dolby Atmos, the company's immersive new sound system that features two extra arrays of overhead speakers and the ability to direct sounds to individual speakers inside movie theaters.

"(Jackson) felt it was going to make a big difference in how he tells stories," said Stuart Bowling, Dolby's senior technical marketing manager. "He doesn't want people to just go and observe his movies. He wants you to feel like

you're part of the experience of the stories that's he's trying to tell on the screen and allow you to be part of Middle-earth."

The director of the Oscar-winning "The Lord of the Rings" films adapted J.R.R. Tolkien's tale of Bilbo Baggins, set in the fictional realm of Middle-earth 60 years before "The Lord of the Rings." Besides the standard 2-D format, Warner Bros. Pictures and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Pictures are releasing the series in high-frame-rate 3-D, IMAX and other 3-D formats.

Bowling said Dolby's goal is to have the Atmos platform installed in 80 to 100 theaters in time for "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," which is scheduled to premiere on Dec. 14.

The second and third films, "The Hobbit: The Desolation

of Smaug" and "The Hobbit: There and Back Again," are set for release Dec. 13, 2013, and July 18, 2014.

Other movies slated to be released in the Atmos format include Fox's "Chasing Mavericks" and "Life of Pi." Disney-Pixar's "Brave" was the first film to debut with the audio format earlier this year.

Bowling said the company expects more than 15 films to be released in Atmos next year and hoped to have the system in 1,000 theaters by the end of next year.

"Dolby Atmos is fantastic from a sound quality position," said John Neill, head of sound at Park Road Post Production. "We can now hear full range surround speakers, meaning that when we pan from the front to surround, the sound does not change in quality. The overhead speakers give us the opportunity to place the theater patron really in the location."

Jackson shot "The Hobbit" in 3-D and at 48 frames a second, twice the speed that's been the standard since the 1920s. He received a mixed reception for high-frame-rate preview footage of "The Hobbit" at the Cinema Con theater owner's convention last year. Some thought the images were too clear and realistic, taking away from the magic of the film medium. □





Rev. Al Sharpton, left, presents Sean "Diddy" Combs the Entertainment Award at the National Action Network's 3rd Annual Triumph Awards on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2012 in New York. Associated Press

## Sean 'Diddy' Combs in Beverly Hills auto crash

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Sean "Diddy" Combs was a passenger in an SUV that was hit by another car in front of the Beverly Hills Hotel, but the hip-hop and fashion mogul was not taken to a hospital.

Police Lt. Lincoln Hoshino said Combs was riding in a Cadillac Escalade on Sunset Boulevard when a Lexus sedan turned left in front of it, and the vehicles collided.

Hoshino says Combs complained of pain, but said he would seek his own medical attention. No one from either vehicle was hospitalized.

A phone message left for Combs' publicist was not immediately returned, and Combs made no mention of the crash on his often-updated Twitter account.

Photos posted on celebrity website TMZ showed the Escalade's bumper badly smashed and Combs lying on grass after the crash. □

## "Spider-Man" co-writer has a book deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The "Spider-Man" saga is going from the stage to the page.

Glen Berger, co-writer of the disaster-prone musical "Spider-Man, Turn Off the Dark," is working on a book. "Song of Spider-Man: The Inside Story of the Most Controversial Musical in Broadway History," will come out next year, Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday. Simon & Schuster publisher Jonathan Karp said the book would be, "entomologically speaking," the "ultimate fly-on-the-wall account" of how a musical is made.

The big budget production became notorious for a series of stunt accidents during previews. The show was eventually revamped and the original director, Julie Taymor, was fired. Taymor later sued the producers, who countersued. A tentative settlement was reached over the summer. □



## Sitcom king Chuck Lorre puts his musings in a book



This Oct. 16, 2012 photo shows Chuck Lorre, executive producer of the hit sitcoms "Two and a Half Men," "The Big Bang Theory" and "Mike & Molly," posing before an interview in New York. Associated Press

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chuck Lorre — whose trio of hits includes "Two and a Half Men," "The Big Bang Theory" and "Mike & Molly" — isn't just a towering comedy mogul.

He's also one of the most widely distributed writers in the world. His tart, often darkly funny dispatches reach a weekly audience of more than 30 million.

Granted, the number of people who actually read these tiny treatises is another question. Each of Lorre's posts appears on-screen for a single fleeting second at the end of his shows, in the form of so-called "vanity cards" — a graphic ID for the show's production company.

The "Chuck Lorre Productions" vanity card has been an outlet for Lorre's random observations since 1997, when alert viewers of the ABC sitcom "Dharma & Greg" began noticing fine print on the screen which, by freeze-framing their VCR, they could dwell on long enough to read.

Among Lorre's propositions on Vanity Card No. 1: "I believe that the Laws of Karma do not apply to show business, where good things happen to bad people on a fairly regular basis" and "I believe that when ABC reads this, I'm gonna be in biiiig trouble."

As the years passed, Lorre kept issuing a fresh card for every episode of each show with his latest reflections, revelations and rants.

On one, he listed "words that confused the CBS censor" (a frequent object of his ire). Among them: kumquat, manhole, cunctation and Dick Butkus.

On another, he recalled a long-ago encounter with a 16-year-old guitar prodigy named Pat Metheny. It was a reality check that led to his eventually ditching his music career to "find work in television. Nobody's

a prodigy there."

Now 333 of those musings — including a few that were censored by the network — have been gathered by Lorre in a rather magnificent coffee-table book, "What Doesn't Kill Us Makes Us Bitter" (Simon & Schuster; \$100), complete with lavish illustrations and even a sewn-in bookmark, a courtesy usually reserved for cookbooks and Bibles. (Proceeds will benefit Lorre's Dharma-Grace Foundation, which supports the Venice (Calif.) Family Clinic.)

In a foreword, Lorre explains that his vanity-card mission has been "to use prime-time television to chronicle an unraveling life and raveling career in subliminal, one-second increments." And with his output already available on his website, he decided the book should be graphically ambitious "in a desperate attempt to add value to something that was never intended to have any."

Lorre may come across as wryly self-dismissive. But in a recent interview he says he takes his scribbles very seriously.

"I started this because it was an opportunity to try and write prose, and I found it very satisfying, and very different than writing a script. This is much more personal. And at times," he adds with one of his frequent whatta-ya-gonna-do? shrugs, "it's gotten TOO personal."

You want personal? Just consider Card No. 337, first aired on March 31, 2011. "Never forget," Lorre wrote in part, "that God/The Universe is determined to kill you by whatever means necessary."

That sentiment was vented while erratic, hard-partying "Men" star Charlie Sheen was clashing bitterly with Lorre and the show's studio, Warner Bros. Only a few weeks earlier, they had been forced to fire Sheen and cut short the show's eighth season. □



## A Poll Addict Confesses



**DAVID BROOKS**  
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Hello, my name is David, and I'm a pollaholic. For the past several months I have spent inordinate amounts of time poring over election polls. A couple of times a day, I check the websites to see what the polling averages are. I check my Twitter feed to see the latest Gallup numbers. I've read countless articles dissecting the flawed methodologies of polls I don't like.

And do you know what I've learned from these hours of attention? That if the election were held today (which it won't be), then President Barack Obama would be a bit more likely to win. At the same time, there seems to be a whiff of momentum toward Mitt Romney. That's it. Hundreds of hours. Two banal observations. I have wasted a large chunk of my life I will never get back. Why? Because I've got a problem. Look, I know in the cool light of rationality how I should treat polling data. First, I should treat polls as a fuzzy snapshot of a moment in time. I should not read them, and think I understand the future.

If there's one thing we know, it's that even experts with fancy computer models are terrible at predicting human behavior. Financial firms with zillions of dollars have spent decades trying to create models that will help them pick stocks, and they have gloriously failed.

Scholars at Duke University studied 11,600 forecasts by corporate chief financial officers about how the Standard & Poor's 500 would perform over the next year. The correlation between their estimates and the index was less than zero.

And, if it's hard to predict stocks or the economy, politics is a field perfectly designed to foil precise projections.

Politics isn't a game, like poker, with an artificially limited number of possible developments. National elections are rare, so we have ridiculously small sample sizes. Political campaigns don't give pollsters immediate feedback, so they can gradually correct their errors. They have to wait for Election Day for actual results, and only the final poll is verifiable. Most important, stuff happens. Obama turns in a bad debate performance. Romney makes offensive comments at a fundraiser. These unquantifiable events

change the trajectories of tight campaigns. You can't tell what's about to happen. You certainly can't tell how 100 million people are going to process what's about to happen. You can't calculate odds that capture unknown reactions to unknown events.

The second thing I know is that if you do have to look at polls, you should do it no more than once every few days, to get a general sense of the state of the race. I've seen the studies that show that people who check their stocks once a day get lower returns than people who check them once a quarter because they get distracted by noise and make terrible decisions. I've seen the work on information overload, which makes people depressed, stressed and freezes their brains. I know that checking the polls constantly is a recipe for self-deception and anxiety.

I know all this. But do I obey? Of course not. I check every few hours. I'm motivated by the illusion of immanent knowledge. I imagine that somehow the next batch of polling will contain some magic cross-tab about swing voters in Ohio that will satisfy my voracious curiosity and allay this irritable uncertainty.

I'm also motivated by the thrill of premature celebration. Elections aren't just about policy choices. They're status competitions. When the polls swing your way, you feel a surge of righteous affirmation. Your views are obviously correct! Your team's virtues are widely recognized! You get to see the humiliation and pain afflicting your foes.

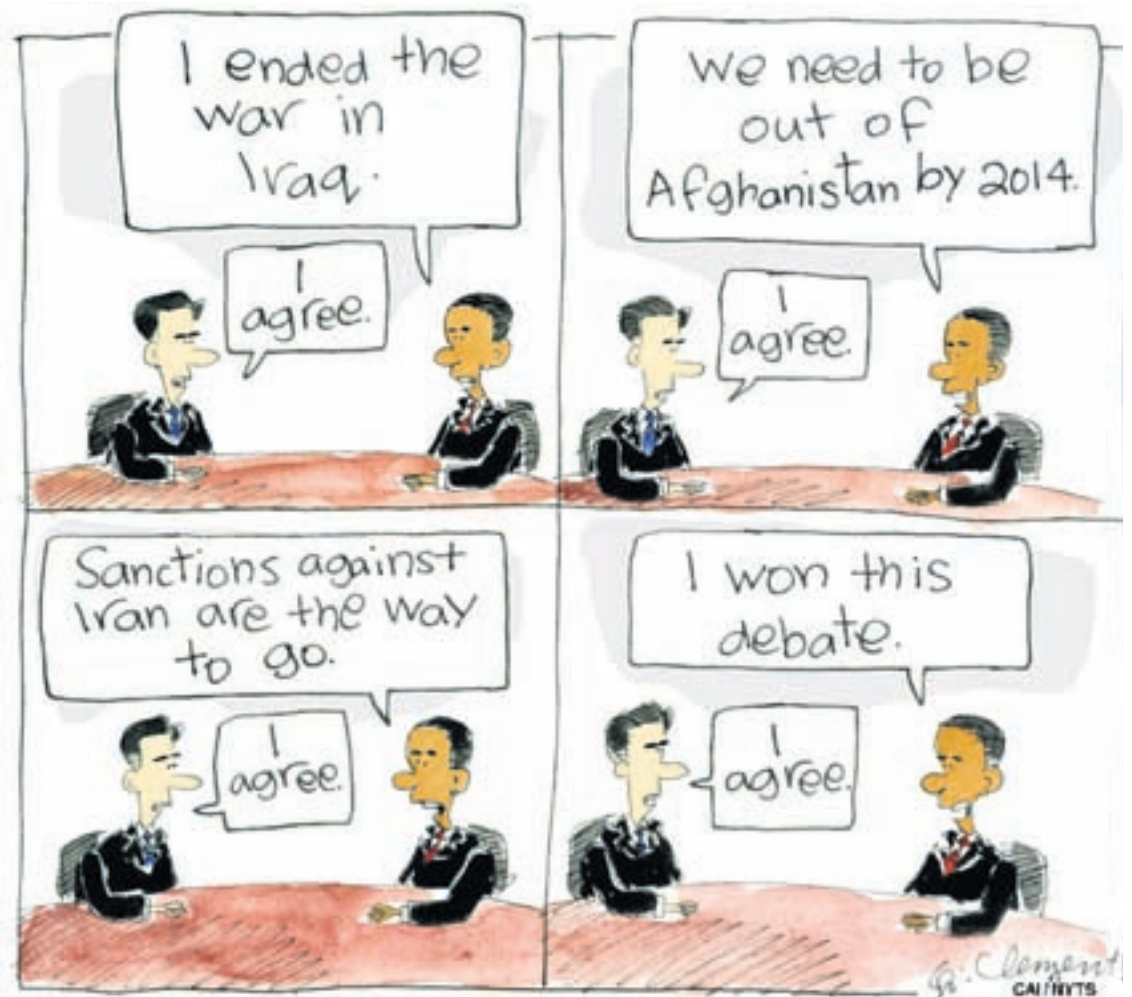
When the polls swing the other way, well, who believes the polls anyway? Those idiots are obviously skewing the results. This has been a golden age for confirmation bias.

Finally, I'm motivated by the power of cognitive laziness. It's hard to figure out how each candidate will handle the budgetary fiscal cliff or the uncertainties involved with Iran.

But the polling numbers are like candy. So clear and digestible! Just as the teenage mind naturally migrates from homework to Facebook, just as the normal reader's mind naturally wanders from Toynbee to Twitter, so the political junkie's brain has a tendency to slide downhill from policy to polling.

Look, I went into a profession — journalism — committed to the mission of describing the present. Imagine how many corrections we'd have to publish if we tried to predict the future. Yet, despite all that, every few hours, I'm on my laptop, tablet or smartphone — sipping Gallup, chugging Rasmussen, gulping Pew, trying to figure out how it will all go down. Come on, David, think through the poll. This is the first day of the rest of your life.

Wait a second! The 7-Eleven Coffee Cup Poll is out! Just one more look. Obama is up big! □



## Where The Candidates Agree



**JOE NOCERA**  
© 2012 New York Times

Judging by the first two presidential debates — I'm writing this on the eve of the third — there is one area where Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama are in at least quasi agreement: the need for serious tax reform.

"I want to bring the rates down; I want to simplify the tax code; and I want to get middle-income taxpayers to have lower taxes," said the Republican challenger during the second debate. He added that he would limit "deductions and exemptions and credits, particularly for people at the high end" — while getting us "on track for a balanced budget."

In response, Obama said that he, too, wanted to bring rates down for the middle class. But, he said, "in addition to some tough spending cuts, we've also got to make sure that the wealthy do a little bit more."

As my old friend Jeffrey Birnbaum pointed out recently, the two men really aren't all that far apart. Romney and the president both want to lower the

corporate tax rate and get rid of numerous loopholes. (Romney, of course, has yet to say which loopholes he favors eliminating.) Romney would cap deductions and credits — which would have the effect of raising taxes on the wealthy, which the Democrats want. "The plans differ in detail," Birnbaum wrote in a note to his clients, "but they aren't unbridgeable."

Birnbaum, the president of BGR Public Relations, is a former Washington journalist.

As a young reporter for The Wall Street Journal, he co-wrote, with The Journal's Alan Murray, a minor classic about government: "Showdown at Gucci Gulch," which chronicled the arduous, multiyear effort that led to the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Tax reform — real tax reform that rewrites the tax code top to bottom — is so rare that it has happened only once in my lifetime. Birnbaum, however, believes that it could happen again.

Then, as now, voters were upset about the state of the tax code. Stories about millionaires paying lower rates than their assistants give people the gnawing sense that the system is unfair. Corporations that pay little or no taxes amplify that feeling.

What's more, the need for tax reform is probably more urgent now than it was in the 1980s. Then, the deficit wasn't nearly the problem it is today. Now, tax reform is just about the only politically palatable way for Congress to begin the process of lowering the deficit.

Lowering tax rates will give Congress and the president — whoever he turns out to be — cover for broadening the tax base, reforming entitlement spending and

raising additional revenue.

Yet what struck me as I reread "Showdown at Gucci Gulch" recently is not the similarities between then and now, but the differences. For starters, we had, in Ronald Reagan, a president deeply committed to lowering tax rates — because during his days as an actor, the marginal tax rate was 90 percent.

We had a senator, in Bill Bradley, who was obsessed with creating a fairer tax system and wouldn't let go of the issue. Today, that role is played by Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles — neither of whom is an elected official.

We had plenty of money sloshing around politics in the 1980s — not to mention powerful special interests — but it wasn't close to the kind of money that is routinely tossed around today, especially after the Citizens United decision. Members of Congress and senators are more beholden to special interests than they were a quarter-century ago.

Most of all, we had a Congress in which Democrats and Republicans, whatever their differences, talked to each other and were willing to cut deals. (Stunningly, one of those deals in 1986 led to the elimination of the capital gains differential, which is almost unimaginable today.) Both Democrats and Republicans got things they wanted — and lost things they wanted. "Compromise," said Bradley the other day, "is the essence of democracy."

Today, of course, compromise has become a dirty word. That's partly because Republicans and Democrats have differing goals: One side wants to use tax reform to shrink the government; the other wants to use it to raise revenue. □



# Creative home fills a void in Warsaw

**STEVEN KURUTZ**

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Three years ago, Jakub Szczesny, a Polish architect, was walking through the old Jewish ghetto in Warsaw when he came upon what he described as an “appealing cushion of air” between a prewar apartment building and an 11-story postwar co-op. Szczesny, who belongs to a collective called Centrala, which is devoted to experimental architecture, got the far-fetched idea of building a house in the incredibly thin gap between them. “I fell in love with a space between two buildings from different periods,” he said. “I decided to make a link.”

Szczesny, 39, began to imagine an ideal resident for the home, and settled on Etgar Keret, an Israeli writer whose reputation for producing collections of very short stories, like his most recent “Suddenly, a Knock on the Door,” marked him as someone accustomed to working within tight parameters, and whose Jewish heritage and Polish roots offered a moving connection to Warsaw. (As a child during World War II, the author’s mother smuggled food past Nazi checkpoints just steps from where Szcz-

esny hoped to build.)

When Keret, 45, received a call from the architect, he was initially puzzled. “This guy with a very heavy Polish accent said he wanted to make a house in proportion to my stories,” he said. “It sounded like a prank.” But Szczesny flew to Tel Aviv, where the author lives, and proved himself sincere. And Keret liked the idea that his family would reclaim a home of sorts in Warsaw. Last week, after more than a year of bureaucratic tangles and engineering challenges, and with the crucial aid of a crane shipped in from Germany, Keret House opened its doors – or door. At just 4 feet across at its widest, and a mere 28 inches at its narrowest point, it may be the world’s thinnest home.

“It was a fantastic set of impossibilities,” Szczesny said of the planning and construction. “We had heart attacks, one after another.” The palpitations began when Szczesny had to determine who owned that appealing void between the buildings. Wola, the district that contains the Keret House, controlled the space, and local officials helped the architect navigate the permit process. But then, city heating pipes

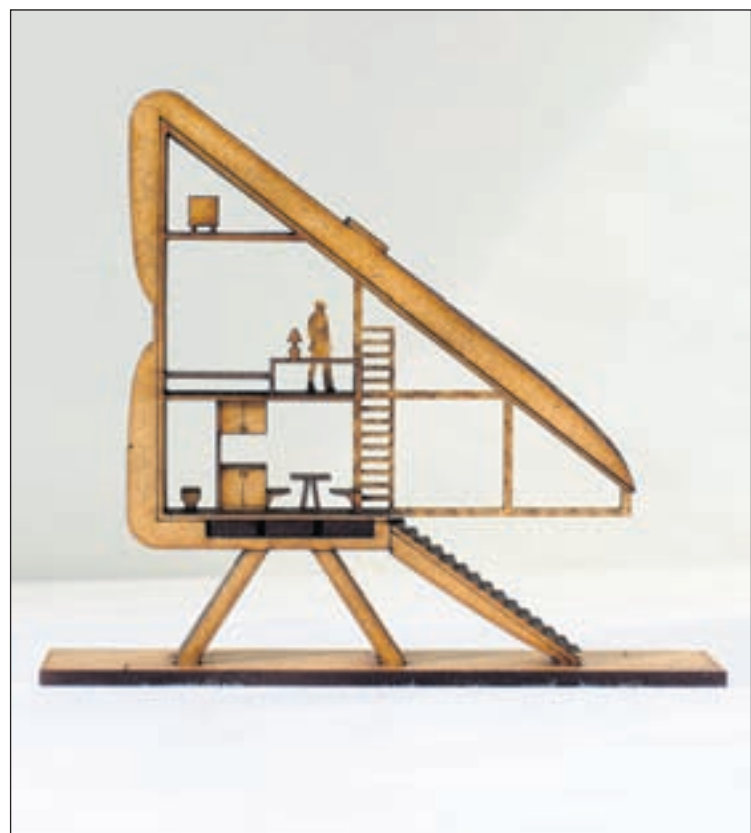
discovered under the site caused months of delays and necessitated a redesign.

The final design makes use of a light steel frame built out of small modules that screw together. Local steel companies, busy putting up shopping malls, had no interest in the small, complex job, Szczesny said. He ran into more trouble finding machinery that could work in such narrow confines. Finally, he found a company willing to build the frame and a German crane to slide it into place. What is Keret House like inside? Raucous parties are unlikely to happen there. The kitchenette is 3 feet wide (though that might not faze New Yorkers), with a miniature sink and a sliding door that conceals one of those cramped airplane bathrooms. The second floor, reached by a ladder, holds a bed whose dimensions do not encourage overnight guests.

The downstairs living area is the skinniest spot in the house, 35 inches wide. But a claustrophobe can take comfort that it also has the highest ceilings and “gets plenty of eastern light,” from one of two windows, Szczesny said. The architect used semitransparent plastic for the roof, rather than concrete, to bring in additional light and create a sense of space.

Keret, who flew to Warsaw for the opening, thinks of the house as the domestic equivalent of one of his stories: small but complete. “It’s something that is very, very compact,” he said. “But it has in it all the stuff that a house needs.” The author said that he plans to stay in the house, at least overnight. “It seems fitting to try to create in it,” he added. “The house will be a portal to all kinds of artistic initiatives.”

By Polish law, Keret House is too small to be a residence. It has been classified as an art installation, to be owned and administered by the Polish Modern Art Foundation. Szczesny and Keret plan to select artists for residencies of five to seven days. □



**A scale model of the previous version of Keret House, which had a face of concrete canvas that was switched to translucent polycarbonate and finished with perforated steel to allow more light in, in Warsaw, Oct. 21, 2012.**

(Andrea Meichsner/The New York Times)



**The Keret House, center, stands with a four-inch gap between the apartment buildings to either side, in Warsaw, Oct. 21, 2012. The tiny home is squeezed into the space between two apartment buildings.**

(Andrea Meichsner/The New York Times)



**Etgar Keret, a writer of short stories, stands on Ikea sheets in the bedroom of the Keret House in Warsaw, Oct. 21, 2012.**

(Andrea Meichsner/The New York Times)